UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
17th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 2 November 1994
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CISSÉ (Senegal)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/49/SR.17
25 November 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (*continued*) (A/C.3/49/L.2, L.3 and L.8)

AGENDA ITEM 94: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (*continued*) (A/C.3/49/L.4 and L.7)

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the draft resolutions to be introduced did not have programme budget implications.

Presentation of draft resolutions under agenda item 93

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.2

2. Mr. ROLAND (Belgium) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.2 on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Convention, together with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were the main instruments available to the international community to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/403), the Convention had been ratified by 139 States; with the exception of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it had been ratified by more States than any other important legal instrument for the protection of human rights. In the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights held at Vienna in June 1993, the participating States called for the universal ratification of human rights treaties, and the final document urged States to accede to such international instruments and to avoid formulating reservations as much as possible. Paragraph 4 of the draft resolution reflected the commitments made by all participants in the Vienna Conference. The draft resolution also recalled that the new provisions for the financing of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, temporarily guaranteed for the 1994-1995 biennium, would enter into force once two thirds of the States parties had notified the Secretary-General of their acceptance.

3. It was important for the international community to act in a coordinated and effective manner in order to eradicate all forms of racial discrimination. The universal ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination together with appropriate measures to permit the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to carry out its work under the best possible conditions were geared towards that objective.

4. Armenia, Cyprus, Guatemala, Iceland, Maldives and Senegal had joined the 61 original sponsors of the draft resolution. All those countries hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote in accordance with established practice.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.3

5. Mrs. TOMIC (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the sponsors who had been joined by Cyprus, Egypt and Guatemala, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.3 on the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.8

6. Mr. JALLOW (Gambia), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.8 on the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The draft resolution reflected the work of the Organization with respect to the universal promotion and protection of human rights. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Presentation of draft resolutions under agenda item 94

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.4

7. Mrs. AITZAZ (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Guatemala, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.4 on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. The text of the draft resolution was identical to that of resolution 48/93, which had been adopted without a vote by the General Assembly in 1993. Some minor changes had been made to technically update the draft resolution by referring to the latest resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it would be approved without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.7

8. Mr. JALLOW (Gambia), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of African States, presented draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.7 on the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights. He proposed the following amendments to the draft resolution: in the fourth line of paragraph 2, the word "imperatives" should be replaced by "a condition"; in paragraph 6, the phrase "after implementation of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique and to assist" should be deleted and the words "financial and material" should be inserted between the words "generous" and "support" in the second line; in the fifth line of paragraph 14, the words "and racist" should be deleted and the word "and" should be inserted between the words "colonial" and "foreign". The group of African States hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

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AGENDA ITEM 95: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued) (A/C.3/49/L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.10

9. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.10 entitled "Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and of the long-term strategy to implement the world programme of action concerning disabled persons to the year 2000 and beyond". Canada, Chile, Guinea and Paraguay had joined the 31 sponsors of the draft resolution.

10. She proposed the following amendments: in section I, paragraph 1, in the first line, the words "and organizations" should be deleted and the phrase "with the cooperation and assistance of organizations" should be added after "fully"; in paragraph 2, the second line, after "persons with disabilities", the phrase "or their representatives" should be added; in section II, paragraph 2, the first line, "programme" should be replaced by "World Programme of Action concerning disabled persons", and in the fourth line, before "report" the word "above-mentioned" should be added; in the second line of paragraph 3, "offices" should be replaced by "programmes"; in paragraph 4, the first line, after "regional" the phrase "commissions and other regional" should be inserted, and in the second line, "disability-related" should be inserted before "technology"; in paragraph 5, the first line, "global" should be replaced by "international".

11. The purpose of the draft resolution was to ensure the full implementation of the Standard Rules, as well as the long-term strategy, which, although they were not compulsory, could become international customary rules when they were applied by many States in compliance with an instrument of international law. They implied a moral and political commitment by States to bring about equalization of opportunities for all persons with disabilities and provided an instrument for policy-making and a basis for technical and economic cooperation among States, the United Nations and other international organizations. With regard to the long-term strategy, the World Programme of Action emerging from the International Year for Disabled Persons in 1981, which served to raise the world's consciousness of the rights of persons with disabilities to the same opportunities as others and to the improved living conditions resulting from economic and social development. In order to continue building on the progress already achieved in the field of disability, the programme must be extended to the year 2000 and beyond, as suggested in the Strategy which the draft resolution sought to implement. The full and effective implementation of the Standard Rules and the extension of the World Programme of Action would make a difference in the full integration of persons with disabilities with the rest of mankind. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

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AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued) (A/49/89, A/49/39-E/1994/57, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/317, A/49/345, A/49/369, A/49/422)

12. Mr. JUNEJO (Pakistan) said that the expansion and diversification of illicit drugs threatened to turn the hopes of the international community for peace, security and rapid social and economic development in the post-cold war period into a nightmare. The powerful drug industry was a major source of instability and underdevelopment in many parts of the world. Its activities exacerbated and perpetuated conditions of poverty, promoted criminality and undermined efforts aimed at environmental protection. Efforts must be intensified at the national and international level to carry out measures in conformity with the instruments and plans of action with which the international community was equipped and to allow the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to fulfil its mandate. International cooperation should be strengthened in targeting major drug traffickers by combating money laundering, terrorism, arms trafficking and corruption. Pakistan fully endorsed the decision by the General Assembly to reaffirm the leadership role of the Executive Director of UNDCP, within the United Nations system, which had provided the basis for a multidisciplinary, balanced and coordinated approach to international drug control. More resources should be allocated to UNDCP to enable it to respond more effectively to the requirements of assisting developing countries in combating drugs. His delegation was pleased that UNDCP considered demand reduction and supply reduction equally important. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should include on its agenda a permanent item on demand reduction and the elaboration of a convention on demand reduction which could spell out the obligations to be assumed by States parties.

13. The narcotics problem in Pakistan had its origin, to a large extent, in the geopolitical developments resulting from the invasion of Afghanistan by the former Soviet Union in 1979. The Government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto accorded high priority to the eradication of the drug problem, with efforts especially focused on curbing drug production, supply and illicit trafficking. The Government had taken measures to treat and rehabilitate addicts and activate community intervention on drug abuse. An effective legislative and administrative framework had been created to fight the problem. In 1989, the Government had created a separate ministry, called the Narcotics Control Division, supported by the Anti-Narcotics Task Force and the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board. A Policy Review Board had been set up to monitor the progress and implementation of anti-narcotics policies, and a Narcotics Interdiction Committee regularly evaluated the performance of 12 federal and provincial agencies.

14. In order to adapt national legislation to the 1988 Convention, the Government had drafted a comprehensive law on narcotics offences, which would soon come into force. In December 1991, an ordinance was promulgated to provide for destruction of seized narcotics. In April 1993, a decree was enacted empowering the Government to destroy the seized narcotics held in warehouses. In September 1994, the Dangerous Drug Act was amended to authorize the courts to forfeit the assets of a person sentenced to imprisonment for a term of two years or more on drug-related charges. The death penalty had been provided for very

serious offences related to drug trafficking. An ordinance was also promulgated to remove a legal lacuna regarding the definition of opium as a raw drug which prevented the courts from ordering proper punishment for the accused. The production of narcotic drugs had been reduced as a result of the elimination of processing and trafficking, the destruction of heroin laboratories and the punishment of traffickers, including some very influential persons. People suspected of involvement in illicit narcotics trafficking were barred from political life.

15. The Government had intensified its efforts to curb trafficking in essential precursor chemicals. Since 1991, acetic anhydride and acetone had been placed on the restricted list along with many other chemicals not included in the Convention of 1988. Despite those efforts, however, recent seizures indicated that there was transborder traffic in acetic anhydride. In addition to the reduction in trafficking, preventive education programmes had been launched targeted at addicts, particularly students, women, children and other high-risk groups, with the help of non-governmental organizations and civic, community and religious associations.

16. In the regional context, Pakistan was participating in the drug-control activities of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and had signed and ratified its Regional Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1990. Also in 1990, narcotic drugs control had been included, at Pakistan's initiative, as an area for cooperation among the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization. Pakistan fully supported the subregional approach being pursued by the Executive Director of UNDCP, which was crucial in countering trans-border trafficking and which had already yielded satisfactory results in South-East Asia and South America. In accordance with that approach, a memorandum of understanding had been signed earlier in 1994 between Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNDCP. Pakistan welcomed UNDCP's initiative in sponsoring a dialogue between Pakistan and India for the establishment of a consultative mechanism on drug-control measures, particularly with a view to preventing the smuggling of precursor chemicals across the border. The informal inter-agency group on drug-control activities established in Islamabad was achieving satisfactory results. In addition, UNDCP, with the help of UNDP, the World Bank and the European Union, was preparing a report in Pakistan on the illicit opiate industry, an example of the broadening of cooperation to include the international financial institutions and regional organizations.

17. Pakistan agreed with the Secretary-General that the United Nations should take multisectoral initiatives to reinforce progress in reducing illicit crops and in crop substitution. Economic assistance should be given to farmers in the poppy-growing areas; industries should be set up to generate alternative income sources and employment opportunities; cultivators of substitute crops should have better access to international markets, and law-enforcement agencies in developing countries involved in drug-control programmes should be provided with modern equipment, a task in which the developed countries could play an important role.

18. Mr. ILLUECA (Panama), speaking on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, said that at the Tegucigalpa

International Conference for Peace and Development in Central America the Presidents of the Central American republics and the Prime Minister of Belize had issued a declaration reaffirming their commitment to the attainment of high levels of economic and social well-being for all Central Americans and to progress in the Alliance for Sustainable Development in Central America. Emphasis had been laid on the social responsibility of the Governments of Central America to take decisive steps against drug trafficking and international crime. The competent national authorities and the Central American Permanent Commission for the Eradication of the Production, Trafficking, Consumption and Use of Illicit Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had been assigned the task of submitting a detailed progress report. It had been decided to set up a regional anti-drug body that would increase data collection and exchanges of information to combat drugs and crime. In addition, the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs had been requested at the Tegucigalpa Conference to promote, at the national and regional levels, the plan of action "Justice on the March" prepared by the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The measures adopted by the Governments of Central America reflected the region's growing awareness of the importance of drug control. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 was in force in all the countries of Central America, which were parties to the Convention.

19. A number of Central American countries, including El Salvador and Panama, had benefited from legal assistance provided by UNDCP. In addition to promoting the implementation of the 1988 Convention, the United Nations should also promote anti-drug training and educational activities. The Central American Governments fully supported all the concepts, definitions, aims and ideas contained in General Assembly resolution 48/12 of 28 October 1993 concerning measures to counter the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which continued to jeopardize socio-economic and political systems and the stability, security and sovereignty of a growing number of States.

20. According to a recent study by the United Nations Association of the United States of America, the cultivation, trafficking and sale of narcotics was a $500,000-million industry, an astronomical figure compared with the UNDCP budget of $187 million for the 1994-1995 biennium. It was to be noted that the International Law Commission had admitted the possibility, in connection with the draft statute for an international criminal court, of giving the court jurisdiction over drug-related crimes, in other words, international crimes defined in treaties. According to the Commission, terrorist activity was supported by large-scale drug trafficking. It should be borne in mind that crimes relating to the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities were exceptionally serious.

21. One of the key objectives of the Global Programme of Action launched by the General Assembly in 1990 was the promotion of economic development activities as alternatives to the illicit cultivation and refining of narcotics. The Governments of Central America therefore supported the General Assembly's appeal

to the international community to increase economic and technical assistance to requesting Governments in support of substitute development programmes that were compatible with peoples' farming traditions. Latin America in general and Central America in particular should implement the guidelines laid down by the General Assembly in resolution 48/112 with a view to promoting international action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking. To that end, the United Nations urgently needed the support of all Member States, given that results could only be achieved if the concepts of democracy, development, and drugs and debt were included in the search for solutions. In that context, the idea of "swapping debt for drugs", a UNDCP initiative, retained its validity. Such an exchange could be viewed as a new type of funding for drug-control projects, since debt could be converted into substitute development which, through alternative development projects, would allow Governments to address such national economic development problems as income generation, rural infrastructure and agricultural development. Mention had been made in the document prepared by UNDCP and transmitted to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme of the interrelationship between economic reform in the developing world and the phenomenon of illicit drugs; the international community was encouraged by the fact that that document would be submitted to the World Summit for Social Development.

22. Non-governmental organizations played a key role in action to reduce the demand for drugs, an aim that was also advanced by the efforts of the academic community to assist students, teachers, parents and community leaders. In the field of AIDS prevention, UNDCP had begun executing a national preventive education programme as part of a larger initiative sponsored jointly by the Government of Brazil, the World Bank, WHO, UNESCO and UNDCP. The World Forum on the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Drug Reduction Demand, to be held in Bangkok in December 1994 with the assistance of UNDCP, highlighted the role of those organizations in the implementation of the multidimensional strategy.

23. It was essential to put an end to situations that rendered young people economically vulnerable and socially insecure. To that end, Member States should continue to support the Global Programme of Action and the System-Wide Action Plan with a view to enhancing the capacity of institutions to promote human well-being.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
18th meeting
held on
Wednesday, [illegible] November 1994
at 6 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland)

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AGENDA ITEM 105: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)*

AGENDA ITEM 108: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued)*

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/49/SR.18
18 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 6.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 105: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/49/336; A/C.3/49/3)

AGENDA ITEM 108: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/49/6 (Prog. 35); A/C.3/49/2)

Programmes 25, 26, 35, 36 and 37

1. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that at the current meeting the Secretariat had circulated written comments of delegations on the proposed revisions to programme 35, "Promotion and protection of human rights", which had been received since its 12th meeting. They consisted of a joint statement by Canada, Australia and New Zealand and a statement and proposed amendments by Cuba.

2. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said it was his understanding that the purpose of the current meeting was to hear a summary by the Chairman of the views already expressed at the 12th meeting or subsequently submitted in writing.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the elected Chairman would present a summary of the debate and of all written comments on programme 35 in due course.

4. Mr. SUTOYO (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the countries on whose behalf he was speaking would submit their written comments on programme 35 the following day. The Chairman's letter to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee must clearly reflect the fact that there were divergent views in the Third Committee concerning the substance of the proposed revisions to programme 35.

5. Mr. KHRYSKOV (Russian Federation) expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Secretariat for having translated the decisions adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights into practical programme language and said that, on the whole, his delegation supported programme 35.

6. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) requested the Secretariat to provide a summary of the cost of convening the current meeting. It was his impression that it had been convened for the purpose of continuing a substantive discussion. However, what had transpired thus far was procedural in nature and could have been handled through members of the bureau.

7. Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) requested the Secretariat to prepare a report based on the views of delegations concerning the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and indicating the basis on which the revisions to programme 35 had been elaborated. Some delegations considered that they were not in keeping with the guidelines set out in the Vienna Programme of Action and relevant resolutions. Document A/49/6 (Prog. 35) offered a futuristic interpretation that bore no relationship to the Vienna Declaration.

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8. Ms. MURUGESAN (India) said that the statement to be prepared by the Chairman should reflect the views, albeit divergent views, of all delegations and should contain a clear recommendation from the Committee.

9. Mr. REZVANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the concern expressed by the United States representative regarding the necessity of convening the current meeting was understandable. The difficulty could be attributed to the absence of a clear agenda.

10. It had been his own delegation's understanding that the Chairman was to have presented a summary of the oral and written comments of delegations for consideration at the current meeting. However, that stage clearly had not been reached yet.

11. The CHAIRMAN pointed out in reply that it had been the understanding of the Secretariat that further substantive statements would be made at the current meeting. He urged delegations which still wished to do so to submit their comments in writing as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
19th meeting
held on
Thursday, 3 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CISSE (Senegal)

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AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/49/SR.19
18 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (*continued*) (A/49/89, A/49/139-E/1994/57, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/317, 345, 369, 422, 532)

1. Mr. MANCZYK (Poland) welcomed the call for increased international cooperation in drug control. In that regard, UNDCP had a special coordinating and catalytic role to play, which was all the more important, given the current spread and diversification of drug problems and the emergence of a global network of drug-related organized crime. In order to fulfil its task, the Programme required the assistance of other international organizations, enhanced cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the support of other United Nations agencies. The arrangement concluded between UNDP and UNDCP, which had defined the functions of UNDCP representatives in the field was particularly welcome.

2. The importance of national drug strategies, with each Government setting its own priorities, must not be overlooked. Efforts should also be made to reduce the non-medical application of drugs, since legal loopholes were readily exploited by black-market operators. Close international cooperation and the full implementation of obligations under the relevant international instruments was now essential. For that reason Poland supported the efforts of UNDCP to assist States in drawing up the measures required for ratification of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

3. Poland was now a party to all the relevant international conventions on narcotic drugs. It had also made considerable progress in adapting national legislation to cover matters such as control of precursors, money-laundering and mutual legal assistance. Its future efforts would be much more effective following the establishment of an interministerial coordinating task force for drug control chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The task force was already coordinating action in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, law-enforcement legislation and information. A schedule for enacting the relevant legislation had also been prepared. Pursuant to the 1988 Convention, Poland intended to introduce penalties for the possession of illicit drugs, and a seminar on the subject had been held in cooperation with the Council of Europe.

4. International efforts were now focusing increasingly on demand reduction, and the first step was to assess the scale of the problem; the involvement of local non-governmental organizations was also necessary. Poland supported inclusion of the topic of educational programmes, the healthy life-styles and community development in the agenda for the next session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The consideration of demand reduction, prevention strategies and interaction between law enforcement and medical services should provide a useful basis for exchanging experience and promoting effective action plans.

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5. His delegation was convinced that greater attention to combating drug abuse would reduce addiction. None the less, such programmes must be supported by action in other social spheres. In particular, Poland favoured law-enforcement programmes and close cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Drug abuse, as a global and multifaceted phenomenon, called for world-wide multidisciplinary action.

6. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that in the reports on agenda item 98 she would have welcomed more information on the gains achieved in drug control during the reporting period. The 1990s had brought uncertainty and upheaval which had impaired the capacity of many States to take unilateral or collective action to combat the drug menace. As a result, the number of people vulnerable to drug addiction had increased. The problem even threatened the political, economic and social stability of nations world wide.

7. The Executive Director of UNDCP had made a number of noteworthy points in his introductory statement. The drug problem was global and consequently an international effort was required to contain it. None the less, coordinated action at national level was essential in order to dovetail national and international policies and to ensure that appropriate priority and adequate resources were allocated to the drug problem. The drug threat must be addressed from the political, economic, social, medical and developmental standpoints. But success depended on the political will of each State, and all international programmes must be built on national resolve.

8. The Philippines had declared war on drugs and, although drug abuse and illicit trafficking were still a matter of grave concern, some innovative and effective work had been carried out on preventive aspects and rehabilitation. Notwithstanding, the problem persisted in the country because of high population density in urban centres, the proximity of drug sources, the country's peculiar geography and strategic location in South-East Asia, and logistics problems common to many developing countries.

9. The Philippines drugs strategy hinged on the twin concepts of keeping abusers away from drugs and keeping drugs away from abusers. It had two components. The first was a legislative and regulatory programme aimed at reducing the availability of dangerous drugs. The second was an enforcement programme intended, inter alia, to eradicate cannabis plantations, prevent the importation of illicit drugs through rigid customs enforcement, and coordinate action with foreign counterpart agencies in order to identify and neutralize trafficking syndicates; the programme also covered treatment, rehabilitation, preventive education, training and information. Noting the growing importance of regional cooperation, she said that a declaration of principles on drug abuse control adopted by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had ensured active cooperation among its members and agencies.

10. Referring to the Secretary-General's report (A/49/139-E/1994/57) on the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, she drew attention to several agency-specific implementation plans of particular merit. The project of the

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute on women's leadership in education on drug abuse in Mediterranean countries could be usefully emulated in other regions. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was to be commended on its activities targeted at young people, with the accent on preventive education.

11. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was doing valuable work in remote sensing to identify illicit crop cultivation. The Philippines looked forward to its plan to focus on specific areas, including South-East Asia, but acknowledged that, in the long run, illicit crop cultivation must be tackled under integrated alternative rural development programmes. The inclusion of a drug dimension in the economic sectoral work of the World Bank was encouraging and would help to reduce illicit crops in drug-producing countries. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) should also pursue its poverty alleviation programmes in areas where narcotic drugs were cultivated. It was important, in that respect, that developed countries provided markets for products in order to encourage crop substitution.

12. The Philippine Government remained ready to provide assistance in creating and maintaining a readily accessible database on programmes planned and under way within the United Nations system and by bilateral, regional and multilateral organizations. It would also assist in technical cooperation activities in especially vulnerable countries such as transit States and those targeted by drug traffickers.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
20th meeting
held on
Thursday, 3 November 1994
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CISSÉ (Senegal)

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AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/49/SR.20
29 November 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued) (A/49/89, A/49/139-E/1994/57, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/317, A/49/345, A/49/369, A/49/422, A/49/532)

1. Ms. ZHANG Fengkun (China) said that she appreciated the holding of the high-level plenary meeting on drug control during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, which brought about a strengthening of multilateral cooperation in the fight against drugs. China supported increased coordination and cooperation between UNDCP and the relevant agencies and hoped that international financial and development agencies would devote more resources to the international fight against drugs, especially to assisting the developing countries in promoting alternative development. International cooperation should be guided by the United Nations Charter and principles of international law, including the principle of respecting the sovereignty of countries. It should not be hampered by any artificial obstacles.

2. In the light of the worldwide drug situation, it was necessary to formulate strategies for the international fight against drugs, taking into account the different characteristics of each region. A balanced strategy should be adopted which put equal emphasis on reducing illicit demand for drugs and cracking down on illicit drug production and trafficking. Faithful implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances would be conducive to concerted action and the strengthening of international cooperation. It was therefore imperative to ratify it. In addition, Member States should also implement the Global Programme of Action in accordance with their own domestic situation.

3. With the progressive opening up of China to the outside world, it had experienced the impact in the last few years of the growing problem of drug abuse abroad. Despite repeated crackdowns, drug crimes in China were on the rise, causing serious concern to the Government. In order to protect the physical health of the people and maintain social stability and unity, the Government had intensified its fight against drugs with good results. In 1993 and the first quarter of 1994, many drug-related cases were resolved, tons of heroin, opium and essential chemicals for drug manufacture were confiscated, drug criminals were arrested and drug rehabilitation services were provided. Those actions demonstrated the strong determination of the Chinese Government and people to prosecute drug crimes and to safeguard the national interest and dignity and at the same time contribute to the international anti-drug campaign. Since drug production and consumption abroad had not decreased in recent years, it was difficult to change the situation in the short term. Accordingly, the Chinese Government had decided to step up its border vigilance in order to make it difficult for drugs to enter the country and to increase the capacity of its law enforcement agencies to suppress drug-related crimes. At the same time, China's administrative departments had tightened control over narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and essential chemicals to prevent illicit use. Also, its education department had focused on drug prevention among young people.

4. China had actively supported and participated in the "Golden Triangle" subregional cooperation initiated by UNDCP. During the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and UNDCP signed a memorandum of understanding on drug control. In July 1994, the five parties held a first meeting in Laos to discuss ways and means to implement the memorandum. That indicated the progress achieved in multilateral subregional cooperation, a strategy initiated and vigorously promoted by UNDCP. China was prepared at all times to cooperate fully with the international community in its drug control activities.

5. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria) said that Bulgaria fully supported the activities of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. His country viewed as positive the deliberations in the coordination segment at the 1994 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council devoted to strengthening the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system relating to international cooperation in the fight against drugs. Moreover, he commended UNDCP upon its work, in particular its integrated political and multidisciplinary approach in dealing with drug-related issues. Bulgaria agreed that the process of consultation and coordination between UNDCP and its main partners in the United Nations system should be further strengthened and extended to collaboration with other competent intergovernmental organizations, particularly at the regional level.

6. In recent years, there had been a serious deterioration in the situation of drugs and drug abuse in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, including Bulgaria. The problem in Bulgaria was aggravated by the geographical situation of the country on the so-called Balkan route from the drug-growing and production areas of the Middle East and Near East to the illegal markets in the West. Despite the fact that new branches of the Balkan route had been created according to available United Nations data, about 70 per cent of the heroin illicit traffic to the target countries, mainly in Western Europe, entered through that route. The war in the former Yugoslavia and the imposed embargo had forced most of the transport vehicles to proceed via the northern border of Bulgaria along the Danube. Contrary to initial expectations of a reduction in illicit drug trafficking as a result of the Security Council sanctions and the strengthening of border control, attempts to transport drugs through the region had continued to increase. According to German statistics, the Bulgarian customs administration ranked first in the amount of heroin seized along the Balkan route.

7. This factor, combined with the changing economic and social conditions, had greatly aggravated the drug problem in Bulgaria. The expansion of the illicit market for psychotropic substances and the spread of heroin and cocaine abuse due to the more active presence of drug-related crime syndicates were particularly alarming. The decentralization and privatization of the pharmaceutical industry and trade had complicated control of psychotropic substances and medicines containing controlled substances. In view of the relatively large number of unemployed specialists and the availability of contemporary technologies, there was a danger of increased illegal production of psychotropic substances.

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8. The Bulgarian authorities and public were aware of the negative consequences for the society of a possible worsening of the drug and drug-related problems and therefore were making a special effort to improve national capacity-building in order to cope with them. In 1991 a special branch of the police was created under the Ministry of the Interior to fight organized crime. It had established operative links with INTERPOL and other international agencies. An interministerial committee to coordinate the activities of all State bodies involved in drug prevention and control was also created in 1993. Bulgaria considered that technical assistance, especially for the law enforcement authorities, was of paramount importance for national capacity-building and in particular, for strengthening control at the borders and within the national territory. In that operation, Bulgaria was cooperating actively with bilateral donors as well as with INCB and through UNDCP.

9. Bulgaria was giving special attention to the practical implementation at the national level of the international legal instruments dealing with narcotic drugs. With the help of the Division for Legal Assistance of UNDCP, the Bulgarian authorities had already stated the process of bringing the national legislation into line with the relevant international conventions. It also attached particular importance to cooperation on drug-related issues at the regional and subregional levels. In 1992 Bulgaria acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on the Laundering, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime. It was also expanding its cooperation with the Group of the Council of Europe for combating drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, the so-called Pompidou Group, and was participating in various projects under the PHARE programme of the European Union.

10. While reaffirming its political will and commitment to international cooperation in the fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking, Bulgaria was confronted with serious constraints which were limiting its ability to cope effectively with the problem. The heavy foreign debt, restrictive budget policies, the need to cope with the negative side effects of the process of economic restructuring on the overall social situation and the negative impact of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on the former Yugoslavia were among the factors contributing to the lack of the resources needed to cope with the problems of drugs and drug trafficking which continued to worsen. The shortage of personnel, training and equipment for the law enforcement agencies was also causing major difficulties. Bulgaria considered that the United Nations could be more active in promoting swap "debt for development" deals, including mechanisms for exchanging debt for the fight against illicit trafficking and drug abuse. Meaningful assistance in that regard could be provided through UNDCP.

11. Mr. SEGER (Observer for Switzerland) said there was no single solution to drug abuse problems, and measures aimed at reducing demand should therefore be combined with measures to reduce supply. Switzerland's drug policy, which was governed by the principles established in the international conventions, had four main components: prevention, aimed at avoiding the emergency of new consumers; reduction of the risk of spreading certain diseases and assistance to drug addicts; therapies for drug addicts, which had three aspects - medical, psychological and social - and repression of production, trafficking and

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consumption of illegal substances. In view of the constantly increasing marginalization of drug addicts since the late 1980s, a situation aggravated by the appearance of AIDS, the Swiss authorities had decided in 1991 to pay much more attention to the prevention of drug addiction and to the treatment and reintegration of drug addicts through the adoption of a series of measures intended to reduce drug-related problems. Thus, Switzerland, in cooperation with local authorities and non-governmental organizations, had stepped up the implementation of early intervention programmes in schools, rehabilitation institutions and athletic associations and within the framework of the juvenile courts. The main objective of the strategies for assisting drug addicts was to promote their social reintegration and avoid the risk of propagating certain diseases, including AIDS. There were outreach centres where drug addicts received not only injection paraphernalia and condoms, but also basic care and counselling.

12. Within the framework of scientific research on risk reduction, assistance to and treatment of drug addicts, the Government of Switzerland had initiated a three-year programme for the medical prescribing of narcotic drugs - intravenous heroin, morphine and methadone as well as oral methadone - which had initially involved 700 people. On 3 October 1994 the Government had decided to increase that figure to a total of 1,000 drug addicts.

13. Those experiments, which constituted one step towards conquering addiction, were aimed at stabilizing or improving the physical and psychological health of the patients; helping them to rejoin society by developing their capacity to work, removing them from a drug-taking environment and assisting them to resume their occupations; reducing delinquency linked to drug procurement and raising awareness of the risk of HIV infection. Although the programme had been operational for only a few months, those in charge had already drawn preliminary conclusions and had observed that the physical and mental health of some patients had stabilized.

14. The programme for the medical prescribing of narcotic drugs had given rise to some questions and even criticism, but many European countries had expressed the desire to be informed about the scientific evaluations under way. Furthermore, although Switzerland understood the concerns expressed, there should be no doubt about the scientific character of the experiments, which in no way constituted a covert form of legalizing narcotic drug consumption. It should be noted that Switzerland could not act without the consent of the International Narcotics Control Board of the United Nations. It should also be remembered that the experiments in no way precluded traditional therapeutic measures. That was demonstrated by the fact that on 3 October 1994 Switzerland had decided to offer drug addicts more opportunities to enter specialized centres with a view to overcoming their addictions.

15. In addition to implementing measures aimed at helping drug addicts, it was essential to respect the basic tenets of the rule of law by applying forceful repressive measures. To that end, the personnel of the Central Office for the Repression of Drug Trafficking had been substantially increased and a computerized data system named "DOSIS" had been set up to facilitate the exchange of information among police departments at both the inter-cantonal and

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international levels. Furthermore, liaison agents were being employed within the framework of international collaboration against drug trafficking. By 1996, 10 such agents would be posted in various places, the first destinations being Lyons and Washington.

16. The measures he had just mentioned formed part of a comprehensive drug control strategy. Thus, on 22 June 1994, the Government of Switzerland had approved the message of Parliament on Switzerland's accession to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1972 Protocol amending the 1961 Convention. Given the way its political system functioned, Switzerland had not been able to take a definitive decision on the ratification of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, but the measures he had mentioned certainly provided convincing proof of Switzerland's will to step up its participation in the international community's fight against drugs.

17. Mr. RODRIGUES (Portugal) congratulated the General Assembly on the initiatives taken in the sphere of international drug control and urged that the work should be continued with renewed vigour. Despite the enormous efforts made by Governments and non-governmental organizations, drug consumption and trafficking had continued to increase, to the point where more and more sectors of the international community were expressing concern about the efficiency of the international monitoring and control system. There was therefore an urgent need to enhance its effectiveness, so as to prevent a constant deterioration of the situation which would have serious consequences for both individuals and society.

18. Portugal had incorporated in its national legislation the measures recommended in the 1961, 1971 and 1988 Conventions, particularly those relating to money-laundering and precursor control. In 1987, in accordance with the recommendations of the Multidisciplinary Outline, a national drug control programme had been adopted, encompassing demand, supply, the treatment of drug addiction and a study of the scope and characteristics of the drug phenomenon as a whole.

19. In the light of the World Plan of Action and the analysis of the practical results obtained, the methods used to implement the measures embodied in the national programme and the efforts made to attain its objectives had been significantly improved, with encouraging results. First, it was the consensus among the public that prevention was essential and fundamental; second, since drug consumption was always linked to high rates of consumption of tobacco, alcohol and certain medications, on the one hand, and to social and psychological maladjustment on the other, prevention should cover all harmful substances, form part of the general education process and include measures aimed at reducing the factors causing social and psychological maladjustment in people at risk. As a result of that collective learning process, the prevention of drug consumption was no longer regarded as the sole responsibility of the State or of specialists, but as a task incumbent on all those involved in the education and health systems. At the same time, the evolution of all aspects of the drug phenomenon was being kept under constant review, as were the efforts to combat trafficking and the reactions of drug addicts, particularly those who

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were HIV positive, to treatment. The aim was to emphasize prevention, which might not be considered a priority investment since it produced long-term results.

20. At the regional level, Portugal participated in the work of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe on epidemiology, prevention of consumption, treatment of drug addicts and preparation of normative instruments for the entire continent. Within the European Union, Portugal had supported the adoption of the European Plan of World Action to Combat Drugs in 1995-1999 and the establishment of the European Observatory for Drugs and Drug Addition. The Observatory, situated in Lisbon, collected, processed and disseminated information on the evolution and characteristics of the drug phenomenon in general and drug abuse in particular, and could play an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of the measures and activities of the European Union and its member States. He urged the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to follow the example of the WHO and the Pompidou Group and establish machinery for cooperation with the International Drug Abuse Assessment System.

21. Pending receipt of the conclusions of the intergovernmental group of experts established by the General Assembly, and with a view to the evaluation of the efforts made at the world-wide level and the contribution of the International Narcotics Control Board to the 1995 report on the implementation of the international treaties, Portugal urged that during the remainder of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse the General Assembly should continue monitoring the situation, i.e., evaluating the effectiveness of the control system; continue promoting the implementation of the World Programme of Action as the guiding instrument for activity at the world-wide, regional and national levels; and call for increasing participation and closer cooperation by all the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies most directly concerned with prevention. Portugal stood ready to do all it could to help ensure that by the end of the century it could be said that the drug problem was under control.

22. Mr. COLOMA (Chile) said that Chile's recent approval of Act 18.403 penalizing the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was a milestone in its efforts to combat that scourge. The law designated money-laundering as a crime and provided for a pretrial investigation phase under which access could be obtained to information protected by banking secrecy, funds could be frozen and suspects were prohibited from leaving the country. In addition, there was provision for strict controls on the import and export of chemical precursors, and for severe penalties for diversion of such substances. The Act was in conformity with the provisions of the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

23. With reference to the Secretary-General's report on the System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (A/49/139-E/1994/57), he indicated his delegation's support for attaching primary importance to national plans. In its view, the first prerequisite for tackling the drug problem adequately was the expression of the political will of States through multidisciplinary plans and programmes and the establishment of central coordination and management bodies. Chile had made progress in the activity of all the bodies dealing with the problem since

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the approval in 1992 of the national drug prevention and control programme, which served as a guide for non-governmental organizations.

24. In Chile's view, the support of international bodies dealing with the issue, such as UNDCP, was needed, but it was important for the other agencies of the United Nations system to join in those efforts. Chile had benefited from the assistance of WHO, especially in relation to the establishment of epidemiological monitoring. ILO had supported the work of preventing consumption in the working environment. Chile would welcome greater participation of UNESCO and UNICEF in those activities, since the drug problem was related to education and culture and seriously affected children. Likewise, FAO should make its presence felt in producing countries.

25. Chile believed that international cooperation was essential in tackling the drug problem. To the international agreements already signed by Chile was added the preparation of a cooperation agreement between Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Chile and UNDCF for the conduct of joint projects with the support of UNDCF in relation to prevention and treatment, training, cooperation in relation to the illicit traffic, trade in precursors and money-laundering, as well as issues related to alternative development. Regional agreements were a way of adding the support of other agencies of the United Nations system.

26. In conclusion, he indicated that the sixteenth regular session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), at which the countries members of the Organization of American States (OAS) had reaffirmed their commitment to adopt all necessary measures to tackle the problem in the region and their determination to expand and strengthen mechanisms for cooperation with UNDCP and other international agencies at the intergovernmental level, had taken place in Chile from 18 to 21 October 1994.

27. Mrs. ENGELBRECHT (South Africa) said that her delegation supported the aims and objectives of the United Nations and other international organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in international drug control. South Africa was a party to all multilateral treaties dealing with narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances except the 1998 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. To that end, a Drug Advisory Board had been established and the internal legislation had been put in place. All that remained was to establish a mechanism which would be responsible for monitoring the movement of precursors as provided for in article 12 of that Convention. The police would be the main authority in monitoring precursors and would report to the International Narcotics Control Board. As soon as the Government approved the mechanism and it became operational, South Africa would accede to the 1988 Convention.

28. South Africa's geographical position in the African continent and the recent opening of its borders, among other factors, made it an ideal transit country and a possible market for drugs. To combat the smuggling and dissemination of narcotic drugs, South Africa cooperated with law enforcement agencies of other countries, particularly the United States. The South African Narcotics Bureau (SANAB) frequently participated in operations within and outside the southern African region. South Africa's readmission to the

International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) had facilitated its efforts to combat traffic in narcotics. SANAB had trained various groups of officials from other African countries, and the possibility of establishing a regional training centre was being studied. In addition, with the joint involvement of INTERPOL, SANAB had recently organized the Second Interregional Meeting on the Illicit Traffic in Methaqualone (mandrax). The resolutions adopted at that meeting inter alia recognized the need for cooperation and exchange of information and provided for the establishment of a regional database, to be operated by SANAB at Pretoria. Toll-free telephone and fax facilities would be financed by the South African police.

29. From 14 to 18 November 1994, a Southern Africa Legal Workshop on Subregional Cooperation Against Drug Trafficking organized by the South African Department of Justice would be held at Pretoria, under the auspices of UNDP. In 1995, South Africa would organize a further regional narcotics conference, in line with a proposal made by its Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Southern African Development Community and the European Union held at Berlin in September 1994. In addition, the possibility of concluding a regional memorandum of understanding which would formalize and improve regional cooperation was being examined, in line with a suggestion made by UNDP in its report on the visit of its representatives to South Africa.

30. Mr. THOMPSON (Jamaica) speaking on behalf of the countries members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the CARICOM States were of the view that the effectiveness of the abuse control system depended on the political will and commitment of States to take decisive action to make it work. In that regard, ratification of the international treaties and strict compliance with their objectives and principles were essential. The CARICOM States welcomed the assistance UNDCP would be providing to Governments in the establishment and strengthening of drug detection laboratories, as well as for its advice on developing national laboratories and training scientific staff.

31. A good example of the effectiveness of system-wide coordination activities was the convening of regional seminars to ensure that national drug administrations were familiar with the provisions of international treaties and with the international control system. The Expert Forum on Demand Reduction in the Caribbean, held at Nassau, Bahamas, from 4 to 7 October, which had been attended by a large number of representatives of governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, had analysed, inter alia, methodology for data collection, multisector coordination, treatment, education and social integration. CARICOM would continue to support such multilateral cooperation activities. It was encouraging that the first session of the Working Group on maritime cooperation had been held at Vienna from 19 to 23 September. It was, however, unfortunate that consensus had not been reached on the report, and it was to be hoped that at the next session, to be held from 20 to 24 February 1995, it would be possible to reach agreement on all outstanding issues.

32. The CARICOM States were directly on the maritime routes from South America to North America and Europe. That geographical location made them susceptible

to use as transshipment points by drug cartels. Virtually all smuggling methods used in the subregion, including the frequently used air-drop method, involved some activity by sea, and that was of great concern to the countries affected in varying degrees by the illicit transit traffic by sea, in that it exposed the population to the scourge of drug abuse.

33. CARICOM hoped that the report of the Working Group on maritime cooperation would produce concrete proposals for the promotion of such cooperation while bearing in mind respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. The cornerstone of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fight against the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was strict compliance with the established principles of international relations and international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

34. The CARICOM States drew attention to the fact that disregard of article 10 of the 1988 Convention, dealing with international cooperation and assistance to transit States, would impede international efforts to combat drug abuse and would serve to exacerbate the problem. Given that international drug cartels used transit States in their chain of criminal activities, CARICOM urged major donors, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNDCP and other concerned United Nations bodies to give special attention to article 10 in instituting their cooperation, which was essential to the implementation of the 1988 Convention.

35. The CARICOM States would appreciate receiving information from UNDCP on the steps that were being taken or had been taken for the implementation of resolution 1 (XXXVII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and were confident that UNDCP, in establishing the three-year action plan and model money-laundering legislation, had cooperated with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, as those areas necessitated the expertise of the Branch. Since model money-laundering legislation had been developed for States with civil law systems, they urged the relevant divisions of the Secretariat to collaborate, as a matter of priority, in drafting model money-laundering legislation for common-law States, such as those of the Caribbean Community. In that respect, assistance in the area of law enforcement was essential.

36. Mutual legal assistance was one of the specific areas for joint initiatives by UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. Legal training workshops had been held in some CARICOM States, and a few of those States would appreciate the Secretariat's assistance in their preparations for adherence to the various anti-narcotics conventions. The CARICOM States were convinced that the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch could make a valuable contribution to future workshops.

37. With regard to the question of demand and consumption, the CARICOM States supported balanced drug control strategies that gave appropriate priority both to primary prevention and treatment and to rehabilitation, for example, the development of systems to monitor the nature, extent and patterns of drug abuse, the intensification of educational and public information programmes and the establishment of partnerships with non-governmental organizations. There was an urgent need to support strategies that stimulated socio-economic growth and

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reinforced alternative rural development in developing countries where narcotic drugs were produced, and to study the clear relationship between poverty and deprivation and illicit drug production and trafficking in those countries.

38. With regard to the restructuring of international economic relations, the CARICOM States were pleased that, in 1991, UNDCP had developed the concept of a "debt-for-drugs" swap, aimed at converting the official bilateral debt of heavily indebted producer countries into local currency debt. The servicing of that debt, which would be set aside in a national fund for alternative development, was to be used for drug control. Thus, Governments would be enabled to tackle national issues of economic development, such as income generation, rural infrastructure and agricultural development. In addition, that initiative might be expanded to transit countries, under the proposals of the Executive Director of UNDCP, for the establishment of a programme of debt relief for transit countries, in accordance with the objective of article 10 of the 1988 Convention. All the measures adopted in the proposals submitted by UNDCP for debt conversion and development of further links with the international financial institutions and regional development banks were encouraging to the CARICOM States, since the servicing of the external debt burden drastically reduced the resources available for effective drug control projects, as well as for economic and social development.

39. The CARICOM States wanted UNDCP to carry out its activities as efficiently and effectively as possible, and to that end Governments must give the Programme succinct directives. Diverse, equitable participation in the work of UNDCP would provide the necessary know-how for formulating viable drug control strategies and policies to meet objectives in all regions of the world.

40. Mr. TIN (Myanmar) drew attention to the need to embark on national anti-drug campaigns and to cooperate fully with the international community in attaining a balanced method of resolving the question of demand, supply and illegal trafficking. In the past, Myanmar's strategy had been focused on the destruction of poppy fields. However, in 1988, a new method of drug control had been established in the context of the Master Plan for the economic development and well-being of the national races who inhabited the remote border areas where the poppy was cultivated. In 1992, the Government of the Union of Myanmar had established the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, with the aim of upgrading the infrastructure and economic system of those areas, which had once been dominated by the Burma Communist Party insurgents, by introducing alternative cash crops, livestock breeding and mineral exploration in all to wean the population away from poppy cultivation. The national races of the border areas had accepted the Government's measures and have participated in the building of the necessary infrastructure in their regions. In the same spirit, a total of 13 armed groups had returned to the legal fold to participate in economic and social development in their regions, which augured well for peace and solidarity and for the eradication of the poppy throughout the country.

41. With regard to cooperation measures at the regional and subregional levels, and in keeping with the global programme of action, the Government of Myanmar had cooperated with neighbouring countries to harmonize its activities. It had

signed agreements with the People's Republic of China and UNDCP, as well as with Thailand and UNDCP for the purpose of coordinating measures to control drug abuse, production and illicit trafficking. It had also signed agreements with India and the Lao People's Democratic Republic and would soon sign an agreement with Bangladesh with a view to establishing machinery for combating drug trafficking in cooperation with the five neighbouring countries. It had also signed a memorandum of understanding in October 1993 with the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and UNDCP.

42. Mr. FLORENCIO (Brazil) said that the question of drug control should be viewed from three different angles. First, from the perspective of demand pressures originating in countries with high consumption of drugs. The means of reducing demand should be based not only on punishment but also on preventive education, media campaigns and community programmes. Such an integrated method had been examined at the Latin American Subregional Expert Forum on Demand Reduction, recently held in Brazil. At the operational levels, it was essential to assure effective implementation of the control mechanisms defined in article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The second perspective was focused on economic and social backwardness leading to drug production and trafficking in many countries. In the transit countries, as in the case of Brazil, measures to combat drug abuse had to be associated with those relating to poverty eradication and other social development measures. Similarly, in drug producing countries, drug control measures had to respect human rights and cultural traditions, as well as the environment. The third consideration related to financial regulations and poor monitoring, which stimulated international trafficking and the financing of criminal activities that took advantage of the existence of numerous safe haven for money laundering. It was essential to complement measures against drug abuse with rigorous surveillance of international banking and financial activities.

43. He commended the progress made at the international level as described in the report of the Secretary-General on the matter (A/49/345) and the excellent work done by UNDCP in the form of assistance to more than 100 countries. In that regard, the cooperation between Brazil and UNDCP was focused on specific punitive projects, in coordination with the federal police and the prevention of drug abuse. In the national context of the strengthening of the internal mechanisms coordinated by the Federal Narcotics Board, the Government had created a National Secretariat to coordinate the various drug control agencies, which had made it possible to enhance the existing mechanisms for cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly with regard to the prevention of drug trafficking, and a close relationship had been established between the central Government and the 26 state councils in charge of drug issues. The National Secretariat was also responsible for the management of the financial resources provided by the Fund for Prevention, Recovery and Combating of Drugs, Derived from Auctions of Goods Confiscated as a Result of Operations against Illicit Drug Trafficking.

44. The Government of Brazil considers it essential to ensure the effective participation of society in drug control. Among the measures recently adopted by the non-governmental sector were the construction of a series of centres and

associations devoted to the prevention of drug abuse and the rehabilitation of drug users, especially in large cities. The integrated measures adopted by the Government and society on issues such as hunger and poverty might serve as a reference and inspiration for joint initiatives against drug trafficking.

45. Brazil believed that the implementation of international drug control provisions was essential, and it had therefore taken all necessary steps for the implementation of the United Nations Convention of 1988. It had also signed agreements of drug control with all Latin American countries, as well as with several other countries of the American continent and Europe. Brazil was willing to increase cooperation with third countries in that domain, through bilateral or multilateral instruments, provided that the international principles of neutrality and voluntary nature were observed and the developing countries benefited therefrom, in accordance with their own policies and priorities.

46. Ms. WHITE (Canada) said that, at the national level, continuing efforts were being made to reduce the demand for and the supply of drugs, with the collaboration of police agencies, the customs authorities, the coast guard and national defence, so as to respond to the efforts of organized traffickers in Canada. At the same time, the issues of demand reduction through education, prevention and treatment initiatives were being pursued by Health Canada and other provincial, territorial and municipal departments, as well as by the voluntary sector.

47. With regard to international cooperation, she said that the meeting of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States had endorsed efforts to increase cooperation between the Commission and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Similarly, the Programme and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch were coordinating activities and expertise in areas affecting them both, such as money laundering and organized transnational crime. As to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/12, an expert group on maritime cooperation, in which Canada was participating, was working to issue concrete recommendations on improving the implementation of article 17 of the 1988 Convention.

48. Of concern to all was the increase in production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, especially in view of the significant financial resources available to drug trafficking organizations and the inadequate capacity of Governments to respond rapidly to evolving circumstances. Increased national and international cooperation was essential, in the light of the new problems and trends. National programmes to reduce the demand for drugs were more effective in the long term. It was necessary, however, to strive for an appropriate legal environment and for a political will to combat drug trafficking and corruption. It was also important to develop programmes of rehabilitation, education, prevention and treatment at the national level. Information exchanges on the successes and failures of such programmes could benefit all countries.

49. Canada remained firmly committed to its balanced approach, namely law enforcement and interdiction of drugs, combined with a reduction of demand for

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drugs and cooperation with the Drug Control Programme, with other agencies of the United Nations and the Organization of American States, and with States Members of the United Nations.

50. Mr. WISSA (Egypt) said that a global policy must be adopted to combat the drug problem so that the United Nations and the international community might fulfil their crucial role in protecting mankind from that scourge. It was necessary to ensure full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, particularly resolution 48/112, by the Economic and Social Council and by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, if a genuine solution was to be found to that problem. In that connection, he drew attention to the work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which was coordinating all activities within the United Nations system aimed at combating drug use and illicit trafficking.

51. The Drug Control Programme had to enjoy the support of all States if it was to attain its objectives. The question of international drug control was closely linked to the programme of work for the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development, for it had political, social and economic implications for society. He drew attention to the importance of the document to be submitted by the Drug Control Programme to the Summit regarding the social and economic consequences of drug abuse, and the importance of the measures proposed to address that problem.

52. His Government shared the concerns expressed in the Third Committee by representatives and by the Executive Director of the Programme regarding the scarcity of resources. Despite its economic constraints, Egypt had always cooperated with the United Nations in that sphere. It reiterated the appeal to the donor countries to increase their contributions, and to the international financial institutions to participate in funding the Drug Control Programme, without having to reduce financial resources for development and without violating the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

53. In conclusion, Egypt commended the work performed by the United Nations system, particularly the support provided by WHO and ILO for programmes carried out in Egypt, especially the technical assistance for drug treatment research laboratories and the training programmes in the drafting of specific legislation in that area. Likewise, it praised the WHO effort to prepare programmes in Arabic for the training of staff responsible for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. For the benefit of the Arabic-speaking countries, the Department of Public Information should translate into Arabic the information bulletins prepared in English, French and Spanish.

54. Mr. GUILLÉN SALAS (Peru) said that with the adoption of the Convention in 1988 and the Programme of Action in 1990, and with the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in 1991, the international community should join forces during the United Nations Decade Against Drug Abuse and promote implementation of the Global Programme of Action, which was a key tool in strengthening and coordinating the activities of the United Nations system. It was necessary, however, to evaluate the components of the Programme of Action, which must take into account all manifestations of the phenomenon.

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It was essential to foster firm and concrete commitments among the consumer countries, and to promote the programmes being developed in the producer countries to attack the economic and social roots of the problem, for there were complex economic and social factors contributing to the gravity of the situation.

55. The coca leaf, which was not in itself a drug, was cultivated - as an alternative means of survival - by rural groups that were excluded from the structured economy and from access to wealth. Those groups were supported by traffickers who encouraged demand and consumption in the developed societies. Peru, the world's largest producer of coca leaves, considered that the programmes of alternative development referred to in General Assembly resolution 48/12 took into account the social and economic dimension of the scourge. Through that strategy, efforts were being made to integrate fully into the legitimate economy the social groups involved in those activities, by implementing plans and programmes to launch an integrated socio-economic development system within an ecologically sustainable framework and with the necessary support of certain less restrictive world markets.

56. International coordination and cooperation against drug trafficking were essential. The recent summit meeting of Presidents of States members of the Rio Group had supported the proposal by the President of Peru aimed at harmonizing legislation to punish money laundering, permitting the confiscation of property connected with drug trafficking, establishing speedy extradition procedures, promoting judicial and police cooperation in that area, and fostering cooperation in alternative development. At the regional level, he drew attention to the work of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, which also understood the need for an integrated approach to the drug problem.

57. The fight against illicit drug trafficking required a stronger political commitment on the part of the international community. His Government's close cooperation with the Organization, through the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), had helped to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation programmes in the various national priority areas. A national plan for drug prevention and control had been adopted. That plan established a national drug control system responsible for directing overall strategy; the cornerstones of which were alternative development and the punishment of drug traffickers. In addition to introducing advanced legislation for the control and punishment of crimes related to drug trafficking, such as the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals, traffic in arms and explosives and money-laundering, Peru had been successful in dismantling and eradicating the links between terrorist organizations and drug trafficking, in controlling airports and in intercepting aircraft engaged in illicit activities. In 1993, there had been a 16 per cent reduction in coca growing for illicit purposes.

58. Mr. Wonil CHO (Republic of Korea) said that, despite the efforts of the international community and UNDCP, the international drug situation continued to deteriorate. The problem must be addressed in a more comprehensive and coordinated manner, based on the principle of genuine cooperation. The Global Programme of Action must be implemented fully with the active participation of Member States, since it served not only as a framework for individual

Governments to tackle the problem, but also as a solid foundation for furthering international cooperation. He emphasized the importance of stronger coordination among United Nations agencies and, in that connection, welcomed the recently updated System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, which provided a realistic framework for improving cooperation and coordination throughout the United Nations system. His delegation hoped that all United Nations agencies would submit their specific implementation plans as soon as possible. Much remained to be done to promote the participation of the international financial institutions, which was essential for combating money-laundering and for formulating alternative development schemes. Given the need to strengthen cooperation between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, his delegation looked forward to the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, to be held in Naples in November.

59. Regarding the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, his country welcomed the UNDCP initiative to adopt a bottom-up approach to the drug problem. Such an approach would contribute to a better understanding of the drug-related problems of individual countries and would generate appropriate strategies and essential information at that level. Given the need to enhance subregional, regional and international cooperation, his delegation welcomed the recent initiatives by UNDCP to address the problem at the subregional level, particularly through the development and reinforcement of inter-country arrangements, and its collaboration with regional organizations and other relevant intergovernmental agencies.

60. His Government was fully committed to promoting regional cooperation, as demonstrated by its hosting of the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific in September 1993. While recognizing that a balanced approach to drug supply and demand was essential, his delegation was convinced of the importance of a strategy for reducing demand. Demand reduction could be achieved through prevention campaigns that combined the use of education and the mass media with the active involvement of non-government organizations. Treatment and rehabilitation were also measures that must be taken to reduce demand.

61. Resource availability was essential to the fight against drugs. The international community must provide much needed resources so that UNDCP could carry out its responsibilities, and Governments must allocate adequate resources at the national level. There must be an increase in voluntary contributions by Member States, assistance from international financial organizations and allocations under the United Nations regular budget. To enhance States' capacities, the concept of a "debt-for-drugs" swap should be studied further and the participation of the international financing organizations should be promoted. Lastly, as the experience of the first anti-drug ambassadors had proved, a goodwill ambassador could play a significant role in that regard, not only by raising funds for UNDCP, but also by disseminating information on the harmful effects of drug abuse.

62. Mr. LEPESHKO (Belarus) said that since the late 1960s, there had been an unprecedented increase in the sale, consumption and trafficking of drugs, a situation that had also affected his country. There were signs that in the

coming years, drug traffickers would become interested in the region of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, where they believed it would be easier for them to traffic because of the lack of border controls. Because his country's borders with the new States created in the territory of the former Soviet Union were less tightly controlled than those of Western Europe, the international drug mafia hoped to be able to use the territory of Belarus for drug trafficking. That such a notion was more than mere conjecture was demonstrated by the route followed by drug trafficking, which started in the countries of the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan) and ran through the Central Asian countries, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Poland and Germany. In 1993 alone, some 40 cases of drug smuggling had been reported on the western border of Belarus. Until recently, drug abuse and the illicit manufacture and sale of narcotic drugs had not presented serious problems in Belarus. Since it had become a transit country, however, the situation had changed radically. Drug trafficking through his country had caused increasing numbers of the population to become involved in that activity, resulting in physical and psychological damage.

63. Belarus was taking decisive action to step up the fight against illicit trafficking and sale of drugs at the national, regional and international levels. A draft of a new criminal code had been approved containing a section, based on the international legal documents related to the fight against drugs, that imposed criminal liability for drug-related crimes. The new laws paid special attention to the problem of prevention. The national crime control programme being prepared by Belarus included a series of proposals for intensifying efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Deliberations were also nearing completion on the creation of an interdepartmental drug control committee, which would be responsible for coordinating the work of the competent departments and ministries with that of the International Narcotics Control Board.

64. Believing that concerted action was needed to tackle the drug problem, his Government had signed the multilateral agreement on cooperation in combating illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances in the countries of the former Soviet Union, which among other things, envisaged the possibility of creating a common information system. In 1993, the Governments of Belarus and Italy had signed agreements on the computerized exchange of information on the illicit transport of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances along the Balkan route, and on cooperation in combating illicit narcotic drug distribution and organized crime. Similar agreements were being drafted with other States. With regard to international cooperation, Belarus had joined the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in 1993.

65. His country respected all the legislative measures adopted by the United Nations to combat drug addiction and was a party to all the relevant international conventions. It had confidence in the work of the United Nations as focal point for international activities to combat drug addiction and welcomed the rationalization of its working methods. It also commended UNDCP efforts in connection with the Global Programme of Action. Belarus supported the idea of drafting a new, unified convention for the control of narcotic drugs

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and psychotropic substances that would bring together the various multilateral conventions currently existing in that sphere.

66. Mrs. ABDEL GALIL (Sudan) said that, having read the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/112 (A/49/369), her delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with respect to the enhancement of international cooperation in cross-border investigations and drug control, training to combat money-laundering and regional cooperation to deal with drug cartels.

67. The Sudan supported the initiative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) on swapping debt for alternative development in the area of international drug abuse control, since it could contribute to the suppression of drug trafficking in future. Her country was very concerned about combating drugs and illicit drug trafficking, and that was why it had acceded to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, as well as the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The Sudan was also party to all the regional and subregional conventions on the subject. At the national level, the Sudan had promulgated a law on controlled substances - the first with provisions for drug addiction - and others relating to opium, hashish and psychotropic substances. It had also instituted the death penalty for illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and strengthened penalties for related offences. Her country was satisfied with the approach now followed by the International Court of Justice, which henceforth would consider drug-related offences.

68. The Sudan did not have the drug problems encountered by other countries, thanks to its religious and social customs and values, which offered meaningful protection against drug addiction especially among youth. Nevertheless, the country's geographical location made it a place of transit. Natural and manufactured drugs from West and Central Africa entered the country through its western and southern borders respectively and were then transported via tortuous routes to the Red Sea and onward to the Arab world and Europe. That was why her country was requesting assistance in order to strengthen drug-control mechanisms and train drug-control specialists.

69. In view of her country's concern about the problem of narcotic drugs, both the legislative and executive branches of government had taken on the issue. The provisional national assembly had established a working group to consider the problems relating to narcotic drugs and ways and means of resolving them. The Sudan's strategy involved, on the one hand, an awareness-raising campaign, including two information seminars on the misuse of precursors, pamphlets and films on the dangers of narcotic drugs and, on the other, the fight against drug cartels and drug traffickers, the treatment of drug addicts and the establishment of mechanisms to prevent the cultivation of opiates. In 1992, more than 200 tons of cannabis had been impounded.

70. The Government's efforts were supplemented by the people's efforts directed by the National Committee on Drug Control established in 1960. The Committee was composed of representatives of the regions involved in the fight against

drugs, the police, the judicial bodies, the ministries of health, education, social welfare, culture and the mass media, as well as the University of Khartoum. The Committee conducted campaigns aimed at alerting the public to the harmful effects of drugs and proposed amendments to drug-control legislation. It coordinated its activities with those of the Committee on Pharmaceutical Policies, identified dangerous drugs and ensured their rational use for medical purposes only.

71. The Ministry for Drug Control, established pursuant to the recommendations of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the decisions of the Conference of Presidents of countries involved in the war against drugs held in Cairo in June 1990, was responsible for coordinating the activities of the various bodies. As far as rehabilitation was concerned, instead of incarcerating drug addicts, they were turned over to specialists for treatment.

72. The Sudan needed long term help in its drug control efforts. The United Nations had begun to provide assistance in 1987 and continued to do so, but much still remained to be done. As part of the war on drugs, measures had been taken in concert with the Sudanese customs authorities to facilitate information exchange and coordination at the highest level, and to standardize police procedures. Steps had been taken to prevent the banking system from being used to launder money. The drug cartels could not attain their objective by force, since arms trafficking had been banned in the Sudan and tight controls had been placed on public and private pharmacies to prevent the illicit sale of psychotropic substances. Coordination had also been established with neighbouring African countries and with the Arab countries. The Sudan had organized a United Nations-sponsored conference on drug control for Arab countries. It also sent its representatives to the United Nations in order to exchange information on activities in that area.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
21st meeting
held on
Friday, 4 November 1994
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. CISSÉ	(Senegal)
later:	Mr. BIGGAR (Vice-Chairman)	(Ireland)
later:	Mr. CISSÉ (Chairman)	(Senegal)

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AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/49/SR.21
1 December 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued) (A/49/89, A/49/139-E/1994/57, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/317, A/49/345, A/49/369, A/49/42, A/49/532)

1. Mr. MOTSYK (Ukraine) expressed concern about the strengthening of the positions of drug cartels, along with organized crime, terrorism, the illicit arms trade and money laundering. There had also been an increase in drug trafficking and drug abuse in countries with economies in transition as the traditional trafficking routes changed. His delegation felt that in view of the aggravation of the problem, increasingly close cooperation was needed in the fight against drug trafficking, above all through the United Nations and its specialized bodies, particularly since States which were experiencing economic difficulties could not eradicate drug addiction on their own.

2. His delegation believed that the international conferences and instruments in the fight against drugs had contributed to the formulation of a general policy against that social evil. There was a need to take advantage of the exceptional capacity of the United Nations as a centre for the coordination of international action; it was to be hoped that the restructuring of the Organization and, in particular, the activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) would contribute to the fight against drugs. His delegation fully supported the efforts of UNDCP to ensure that all States acceded to the international instruments on drugs and psychotropic substances, complied strictly with their provisions, and harmonized their legislation with those instruments. In that respect, his delegation shared the concern of the International Narcotics Control Board that, despite the increase in the number of countries which had acceded to the 1988 Convention, very few countries had established precursor control mechanisms in accordance with article 12 of the Convention.

3. Ukraine greatly appreciated the work of UNDCP and supported its approach of assigning the same importance to the reduction of the demand for and supply of drugs as to the fight against drug trafficking. The preventive work carried out by UNDCP in the countries with economies in transition should be noted, since the links of local drug traffickers with international networks would impede the inter-State struggle against drugs and could bring to naught the progress made in recent years. Relations between UNDCP and Ukrainian State bodies were satisfactory and constructive. Because of the increase in drug trafficking and drug use in the region, Ukraine welcomed the signing of a technical assistance programme with UNDCP.

4. His delegation stressed the importance of the establishment of the working group on maritime cooperation, of which it was a member; it hoped that the group would formulate a set of principles and concrete recommendations to ensure strict compliance with article 17 of the 1988 Convention. His delegation also felt that it was important to improve coordination and develop cooperation

between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Secretariat.

5. Because of its geographical situation and the existence of a stable domestic market, Ukraine was used as a transit State. His Government was taking the strongest possible measures to resolve that problem, and to that end had adopted a national programme and established a national council to coordinate the fight against drug abuse. His Government was prepared to continue to develop bilateral, regional and international cooperation with the United Nations in the struggle against drug trafficking.

6. Mr. PERERA (Sri Lanka) said that Sri Lanka was a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Sri Lanka fully supported the work of UNDCP in promoting accession to those conventions, providing legal assistance to States in the formulation of implementing legislation, and organizing legal workshops to facilitate the implementation of the conventions and domestic legislation. It was imperative that UNDCP receive the financial support necessary for it to discharge its functions and expand and strengthen its technical cooperation programmes. His delegation therefore supported the initiative of establishing a dialogue with multilateral development banks so that a drug control dimension could be included in the lending and programming activities carried out in interested and affected countries.

7. In 1993, a regional legal workshop had been held in Sri Lanka with the assistance of UNDCP and the Colombo Plan. In August 1994, the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka had arranged for the visit of a UNDCP expert to discuss and develop a comprehensive law on drug abuse and drug trafficking which would be submitted to Parliament shortly for approval; the proposed law included provisions on money laundering, confiscation of proceeds from drug trafficking, controlled delivery and the provision of mutual legal assistance. The Board was coordinating the work of the government agencies concerned, provincial councils and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, in consultation with the relevant agencies and with the assistance of UNDCP, it had formulated a master plan for drug abuse control with the aim of securing a steady reduction in drug-related problems in Sri Lanka. The Board was also maintaining a programme of treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug addicts, in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations. A draft law for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug offenders was also under consideration.

8. Sri Lanka had initiated action within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to formulate a regional convention against drug abuse and drug trafficking, which was now in force. As a follow-up, a regional drug offences monitoring desk for the collation and dissemination of information on drug offences within the region had also been established. A directory of national focal points of law enforcement agencies in SAARC countries had been finalized. In September, a meeting of those agencies had been convened in

Colombo with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of their cooperation, particularly in the exchange of information. It was expected that on the basis of that cooperation, it would be possible to establish a database at the regional level. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the working group on maritime cooperation in the context of the relevant provisions of the 1988 convention.

9. Ms. ZACHARIAH (Malaysia) said that the strategy for combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking must be constantly re-evaluated and improved. It remained for States to ensure the effective implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action. Malaysia's experience in implementing that Plan and Programme had demonstrated the need for their adaptation and adjustment. Her delegation supported the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that the Executive Director of the UNDCP should analyse ways of strengthening system-wide cooperation and coordination in order to maximize the impact of drug control activities.

10. Malaysia supported the approach envisaged in the Global Programme of Action and believed that demand reduction was a significant aspect of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. In order to ensure the success of national programmes against drug abuse, Governments should adopt strategies involving government agencies, non-governmental and voluntary organizations and the private sector. Public information campaigns with particular emphasis on young people should be foremost in the demand reduction strategy. UNDCP should be prepared to assist countries which required information and expert advice on how such a strategy could be formulated. Along with reducing demand, the number of drug abusers must be reduced through treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. While many believed that treatment should be voluntary, it might well be necessary to resort to involuntary treatment and rehabilitation. The detention of drug abusers would be in their own interest, since treatment and rehabilitation programmes could include spiritual counselling, self-discipline and job training.

11. Interdiction should not be regarded as the sole strategy for the control of supply. The eradication of illicit drug production also required international cooperation. The link between poverty and the cultivation of opiates could not be ignored. Peasants who were at the mercy of drug lords could not be offered the simplistic solution of crop substitution, because in addition to development, they needed protection. In that connection, the "debt-for-drugs" swap proposed by UNDCP seemed interesting. The Malaysian delegation encouraged UNDCP to pursue a dialogue on that subject with the international financial institutions.

12. Malaysia found it regrettable that, as noted in document A/49/317, only 101 countries had so far become parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 had yet to achieve universal acceptance. Nevertheless, all efforts should be made to ensure that more countries became

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parties to those instruments, whose implementation should be monitored. Her delegation supported the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning the enhancement of the role of the International Narcotics Control Board in persuading Governments to adopt the measures provided for in those instruments and to produce a detailed assessment of the policies which they pursued in combating the drug menace. The dissemination of information to encourage countries to become parties to the Conventions was also important.

13. The Malaysian delegation welcomed the initiative taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in establishing a working group on maritime cooperation and convening its first session. However, in view of the importance of the question for South-East Asia, it was regrettable that not a single country in the region had been invited to participate in that working group. Her delegation endorsed the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning the harmonization of legislation, particularly in the area of money-laundering. With regard to the link between organized crime and illicit drug trafficking, the Commission should pursue specific areas for cooperation with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Secretariat. The effectiveness of drug control efforts would ultimately depend on the availability of resources. The UNDCP budget was in deficit; that might paralyse its activities. At the same time, UNDCP had been requested to take on new tasks that would require more funds. Malaysia believed that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should look into the matter and suggest ways of applying innovative approaches to assist UNDCP.

14. Mr. YADAVA (Nepal) welcomed the favourable response from the international community to the fight against drugs and noted that the United Nations Department of Public Information had played a vital role in disseminating information relating to drug control. Drug control activities should not be confined to government ministries and organizations, but should be extended to community-based non-governmental organizations. Preventive education programmes should be targeted to students, teachers and parents and, in particular, to vulnerable and high-risk groups, such as street children, unemployed youth and other disadvantaged groups in society. He also welcomed the World Forum on the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Drug Demand Reduction, to be held in Bangkok in December 1994 with the assistance of UNDCP in connection with the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. Nepal supported the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Expert Group (A/C.3/45/8) that a comprehensive, unified information system should be developed which would include reliable data on the illicit drug trafficking chain. His delegation also expressed appreciation to UNDCP for its role in the development of a paper on the relationship between drug abuse and underdevelopment and the preparation of a multi-agency evaluation of the socio-economic impact of drug abuse and control.

15. With regard to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Drug Control Board in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, it was encouraging to note that treatment and rehabilitation programmes received priority in the Asian and Pacific region. The signing of a memorandum of understanding at the subregional level in South-East Asia and the efforts made by some countries of South-West Asia to cooperate in the fight

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against drug trafficking through the signing of a similar memorandum were also a source of satisfaction. All the regional agencies concerned should identify areas for cooperation in the coordination of law enforcement interdiction efforts, the establishment of regional intelligence information services and the development of a standard mechanism for the collection, analysis, dissemination and sharing of data related to drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

16. In Nepal a master plan had been formulated in cooperation with UNDCP which had reached the third phase of implementation. Despite financial and other limitations, activities had focused on the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers. Emphasis had also been given to preventive measures, such as education, and mass media campaigns aimed at creating awareness among the public at large. In addition, a nationwide network was being set up to mobilize community-based non-governmental organizations, and an active campaign against drug trafficking and production had been initiated. The Government of Nepal had also strengthened the judicial and legal system. At the regional level, Nepal was cooperating with other members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in promoting drug control activities. The Association had implemented a number of programmes in which policy makers, law-enforcement agencies and professionals in the field of demand reduction had participated. A SAARC Regional Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had now been concluded with a view to coordinating efforts to control drug abuse, trafficking and production.

17. Mr. SLABY (Czech Republic) highlighted specific problems, including drug addiction, which resulted from the rapid development of society, migration, tourism and changes in the legal system. At the beginning of 1993 his country had established an Inter-Ministerial Drug Control Commission which had worked out a concept and programme for anti-drug policy; that document evaluated the problem of drug abuse at the national level, set forth principles of government policy and analysed legislative needs and proposals. Measures had recently been taken to increase the effectiveness of the Commission; its statute had been modified to bring it into line with the statutes of other European countries and with the recommendations of UNDCP, thus enhancing its operational character. The Commission was headed by the Minister of the Interior and its members included eight other ministers directly concerned with drug addiction (the Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs, Health, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Education, Youth and Sport, Industry and Commerce and Justice and Finance). The Commission had also become the relevant partner at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

18. The Czech Republic was not only a transit country on the Balkan route, but was becoming a destination country and, to some extent, a producer country. Drug-related crime was reaching European levels in spite of measures taken at the national level. It was therefore essential for the Czech Republic to be fully involved in international cooperation to combat drug abuse. He welcomed the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session and the recently updated System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control as the basis for international cooperation in that field. The Czech Republic was a State party to all the international conventions on drug control, and had prepared a series of legislative measures to strengthen

the guarantees that all relevant provisions would be observed. Further, in terms of international institutions, it was a member of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and maintained valuable contacts with the International Narcotics Control Board. Regarding cooperation with UNDCP, there were two current projects involving UNDCP assistance, one for police and customs authorities and one relating to laboratories.

19. He drew attention to cooperation on legislation and to the activities of the Czech Inspectorate on the control of legally produced narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. On the basis of United Nations assistance in that field and consultations with relevant experts, work had been continuing to bring Czech legislation into line with international treaties and the legal norms of the European Union. The Czech Republic appreciated the cooperation between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. Representatives of the Branch had presented its programme at a session of the Czech Government's Crime Prevention Commission, at which agreement had been reached on possible future cooperation. There was a dangerous link between the illicit drug trade and transnational organized crime, and his delegation therefore supported strengthening the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and upgrading it to a Division.

20. Ms. HORIUCHI (Japan) drew attention to the importance of international cooperation in the fight against drugs, including legal enforcement and other measures to reduce supply and demand. In that regard, she welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (A/49/345). Drug control legislation provided a firm foundation for coordinated efforts in that field, and she therefore urged States that were not parties to the relevant international instruments to ratify and accede to them. She also encouraged States parties to adopt legislative, administrative and judicial measures to bring their domestic legal systems into line with those instruments. UNDCP had developed a package of model laws which could be used as guidelines in the creation of such a legal framework. Drug control legislation, especially in the area of money laundering, facilitated cooperation among nations and monitoring of the implementation of drug control treaties by the International Narcotics Control Board.

21. Japan attached great importance to the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers, and to preventive activities at both national and international levels. Governments should therefore enhance their collaboration with non-governmental organizations. In Japan the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, a Japanese non-governmental organization, had launched and sponsored a successful educational and public information campaign. Similarly, a fund-raising campaign conducted jointly by the Government and non-governmental organizations in 1993 had raised $420,000 for a UNDCP project to support activities of non-governmental organizations aimed at preventing drug abuse in developing countries.

22. Regarding control of the supply of narcotics and psychotropic substances, she said that greater attention should be paid to the links between drug control and alternative development schemes. Member States should give their full

support to UNDCP initiatives, since UNDCP, operating on a limited budget, could not be the sole force behind such multidimensional projects. Other international organizations should cooperate in such schemes and should incorporate the fight against drugs into their programming cycle. It was also necessary to strengthen the process of consultation and coordination between UNDCP and its main partners within the system, and to encourage contacts between UNDCP and international financial institutions. UNDCP should extend its expertise, currently limited to the control of heroin and cocaine, to include the control of stimulants among its activities.

23. Regional and subregional strategies were essential to successful drug control. Japan welcomed the decision of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to accede to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Myanmar, Thailand and China, and would continue to support UNDCP activities in that area, particularly those of the Bangkok Regional Centre. Lastly, she was concerned at the financial state of UNDCP at a time when it should improve its efficiency. In order to raise programme delivery in 1994 and 1995, contributions would need to be increased. To that end, UNDCP should continue to adopt effective fund-raising methods such as special appeals from the Secretary-General describing the resources the United Nations agencies needed to implement regional and international drug control measures.

24. Mr. SANTAPUTRA (Thailand) said that Thailand had long been working to eradicate illicit drug production and trafficking and drug addiction. While heroin continued to be the main drug of abuse, the use of amphetamines and volatile substances was currently growing. Thailand was a party to the 1961 Convention and the 1972 Protocol and to the 1971 Convention. While it had not yet acceded to the 1988 Convention, it had already implemented many of the measures contained in the Convention, for example by adopting the Act regarding measures for the suppression of crimes relating to narcotics. The drugs problem was mainly a problem of trafficking, distribution and consumption. Without demand and trade, the supply would disappear. In order to eradicate the scourge completely, the reduction and elimination of all aspects of production, trafficking and consumption must be addressed - and that must happen, given the transnational nature of the phenomenon, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. Mutual assistance and cooperation in that respect must, therefore, be transboundary in order to be effective.

25. At the national level, his Government had adopted a strategy for the reduction of supply and demand focusing both on suppression and on prevention. The opium poppy cultivation area had successfully been reduced. Figures for the 1993/94 season showed a 50 per cent reduction from the previous year, and the cultivation area had consequently been reduced to 1,800 hectares. The Master Plan on Community and Environment Development and Narcotic Crops Control in the Highland (1992-1996) aimed partly to encourage the highland communities to stop growing opium poppies. Since its enactment, his Government had applied the law regarding the suppression of narcotics offences in six cases against 16 offenders accused of conspiracy. The authorities had inspected and temporarily frozen the assets of those involved, valued at $4 million. In 1993 approximately 100,000 offenders involved in 101,400 drugs cases had been

arrested. About 2,500 kilograms of heroin had been seized and two major heroin refineries destroyed. With regard to the issue of money laundering, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board was drafting regulations jointly with a number of government agencies to suppress activities for laundering the proceeds of the illegal drug trade.

26. Prevention was one aspect of the national strategy for reducing demand. The aim was to help those who had not yet become victims of drug abuse to recognize that it was possible to live a healthy life without resorting to drugs. The key to prevention was a happy and harmonious family life. Preventive education had been provided, and emphasis had been placed on environment and community institutions in order to promote a drug-free atmosphere. The media had cooperated with the authorities in the dissemination of pertinent information. The Government had established a national subcommittee on drug prevention to coordinate the plans and activities of various agencies. The cooperation of all sectors of society had been mobilized. Non-governmental organizations, the private sector and community organizations were cooperating in prevention programmes. Starting in 1992, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board had launched a five-year project in collaboration with the Kodak company (Thailand) aimed at creating public awareness of the danger of drugs. That was the first long-term project implemented jointly by the private sector and the Government. Given the importance of the interaction among all sectors in addressing the problem, the Government was supporting the National Council on Social Welfare, a non-governmental organization in Thailand, in its preparations for the World Forum on the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Drug Demand Reduction, to be held in Bangkok.

27. Subregional and regional cooperation was vital in solving the drug problem. Thailand had been working closely with the members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in that area. It was also cooperating with other countries in the subregion, being convinced that one country alone could never overcome the problem. In 1992, Thailand had initiated a meeting at the ministerial level with the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. It had also actively participated in a subregional project of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) involving Myanmar and Thailand in October 1993. In February 1994, it had taken part in the second Ministerial Conference on Cooperation and Drug Abuse Control Strategy, together with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. The joint declaration which had resulted from the Conference reaffirmed the commitment of the three countries in that area. In New York, Thailand had signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Governments of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar and UNDCP, which had led to the first Subregional Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Control Strategy, held in June 1994. At that meeting, a subregional action plan on drugs had been adopted. It had been further agreed that cooperation should be expanded to include Viet Nam and Cambodia, thus bringing together all the Mekong riparian States.

28. Cooperative efforts with the countries of the subregion and UNDCP had focused on suppression and prevention. Efforts had been directed at eliminating opium poppy cultivation and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and

psychotropic substances in the subregion. Cooperation had been strengthened by the setting up of information systems and training in prevention and treatment. Technical cooperation and coordination had been promoted and expanded by means of seminars, training and study visits. National and regional plans had incorporated methods for reducing the added risk of AIDS caused by intravenous drug use.

29. At the global level, international organizations, particularly the specialized agencies of the United Nations, could play an important role in combating drugs. Thailand had always been actively involved in the work of UNDCP, and believed that it should act as coordinator of drug issues in the United Nations system. The Global Programme of Action outlined integrated strategies for drug abuse control. To achieve the objectives of the Programme, the international community, in particular the developing countries, must cooperate closely with UNDCP and the specialized agencies of the United Nations in order to obtain the technical and financial assistance necessary to the development and implementation of national and regional strategies. He appealed to countries with greater resources to contribute generously towards the work of UNDCP.

30. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Cuba) said that combating drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking was one of the most serious problems currently facing the international community. The phenomenon had transnational dimensions that called for an effective and well-coordinated international response, particularly within the United Nations system, since there was a wide discrepancy between the magnitude of the problem and the collective capacity of the system to deal with it. The resolution on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking established the general framework for much more effective international action. Such action must be carried out with absolute respect for the sovereignty of States, the norms and principles of international law and, in particular, the principle of non-intervention and of refraining from the threat or use of force in international relations.

31. Greater efforts must be expended on preventing consumption, the motive force of drug production and trafficking, if progress was to be made over the long term. Given its geographical location, Cuba had been affected by the consequences of international drug trafficking, and, despite the economic difficulties the country was currently experiencing, it had spared no effort to combat it. The National Anti-Drug Commission was the key agency in the fight against drugs. The Commission performed three basic functions: to prevent the national territory and surrounding areas from being used for trafficking in narcotics; to protect society from the introduction of drugs; and to cooperate at the international level in that area. It should be noted that in 1993 some 3,364 kilograms of cocaine had been seized in a total of 79 drug-related incidents, an increase of 104 per cent over 1992. The confiscated drugs had been burned in accordance with international procedures.

32. While drug consumption was not a social problem in Cuba, control measures were being carried out to prevent abuse, the system for the control of

psychotropic drugs was being strengthened, and national legislation was being updated to deal with the phenomenon more effectively. Cuba continued to participate in the negotiation and signing of bilateral agreements at the regional level and above. It had always regarded the common interest and mutual respect as fundamentals which were essential if agreements were to be reached with all countries throughout the world. Cuba firmly believed in the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation in that area and hoped that it would continue to give priority attention to the issue.

33. Mr. SHESTAKOV (Russian Federation) said that political instability, armed conflicts, a difficult social and political situation throughout the world, and the inability of countries to maintain public order were undermining drug control efforts. Legal loopholes in that area were further aggravating the situation; for example, the conversion of the financial and banking systems of the former socialist countries created ever greater opportunities for money-laundering. The States of Central and Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation had become an avenue for illicit trafficking in drugs. According to the Ministry of the Interior, crimes related to drug trafficking had increased by 83 per cent compared with 1993, reaching a level of 53,000. Over 50 per cent of the drugs to be found in the Russian Federation had been produced outside its borders. The chief exporting countries were Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Latvia and the States of Central Asia. The increase in crime was also due to the permeability of the borders, the population migration and the large volume of interchanges between the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Trafficking in illicit drugs and psychotropic substances previously unknown in Russia had increased. The interest of drug traffickers in the Russian Federation could be explained above all by its geographical location and the size of its market. It could be noted that a new international drug trafficking route was being established, flowing from South-east, South-west and South Asia to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Western Europe.

34. Improving anti-drug legislation and adapting it to international norms was one of the most important measures in the search for a solution to the problem. Draft legislation was being prepared and in 1993 President Yeltsin had approved the State anti-narcotics policy which had laid the theoretical foundation for a long-term national strategy in that area. A programme to combat drug abuse had been devised for the years 1994 to 1996.

35. Any solution at the national level would, however, be in vain without the support of the international community. The United Nations had an important role to play in coordinating the international campaign against drug abuse. In that connection, he drew attention to the work of UNDCP in devising the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, which would lead to improved coordination in the use of existing resources, avoidance of duplication, and the establishment of a firm basis for future joint activities. It was important to increase cooperation between UNDCP and other international and non-governmental organizations, and the strengthening of the relationship between UNDCP and the international financial institutions, whose assistance was indispensable, was encouraging. He welcomed the geographical expansion of the assistance provided by UNDCP. It would be useful if the latter were to increase

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its cooperation with the Russian Federation; to that end, the creation of a permanent office of the Programme in Moscow and the establishment within the Programme of a special group for the Commonwealth of Independent States region.

36. Another way of strengthening international cooperation would be for more countries to become parties to the Conventions on drug abuse. The Russian Federation was a Party to those Conventions, and was prepared to encourage other countries to accede to the international drug control instruments. Non-compliance with various provisions of the Conventions, including the obligation to submit reports was a matter for concern. His Government supported the preparation of a new consolidated convention which would include all the existing multilateral agreements.

37. The Russian Federation was aware of the importance of cooperation at the regional level and was encouraging the setting up of mechanisms for collaboration with the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 1992, it had signed an agreement on cooperation with the Ministers of the Interior of 13 States of the Commonwealth with a view to combating drug abuse. An office to combat organized crime was being established in Moscow, and bilateral agreements had been signed with 30 States. Finally, his Government fully supported the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-seventh session, as well as those adopted by the Economic and Social Council aimed at increasing the effectiveness of United Nations drug control activities.

38. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) said that during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, when two historic resolutions (resolutions 48/12 and 48/112) had been adopted, and during the coordination segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1994, the international community had demonstrated its determination to combat the scourge of drugs by adopting global, concerted, collective and multidisciplinary measures, both at the level of international cooperation and within the United Nations system. Moreover, the decision to update the System-wide Action Plan showed a new spirit of shared pragmatism. In that connection, the action of UNDCP, in its role not only as a system-wide coordinator, but also as the main focal point for concerted international action, would be decisive. Algeria fully supported the UNDCP initiative to establish a dialogue with the international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank and the regional development banks, to urge them to include a drug-related component in their general programming and lending policies. It also believed that the concept of the "debt-for-drugs" swap was an innovative formula which should be extended to transit countries.

39. In less than a decade, the African continent had become an important transit centre for drugs en route to major consumption areas while, at the same time, local consumption had increased considerably. Clearly, UNDCP should give greater priority to Africa, and its share of budgetary allocations should be increased accordingly. The competent Algerian authorities had noted with concern from the consignments of drugs confiscated that the transit trade consisted not only of cannabis, but also included other more powerful drugs, and that a clientele of local consumers had come into being. Faced with that

situation, the public authorities had launched a programme of action which included the area of public health and a large-scale public-awareness campaign; legislative instruments for intersectoral coordination had also been enacted. Within the framework of the legislation relating to the protection and promotion of health, multidimensional action was being carried out. A national drug and drug addiction control commission had been established and national guidelines for the control of drugs were being prepared. A youth-oriented national prevention campaign had been launched and would continue throughout the current year. At the same time, the methods, strictness and effectiveness of controls at the frontiers, ports and airports had been strengthened.

40. At the regional and international levels, Algeria had, by Legislative Decree No. 94-02 of 25 March 1994, ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and it was participating actively in specialized coordination within the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), in Africa. In addition, a programme of cooperation with UNDCP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had been set up, offering broad and ambitious prospects for the strengthening of UNDCP support for Algeria's decisive actions against drugs.

41. Mr. Biggar (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

42. Mr. MOUBARAK (Lebanon) said that over the past few decades the use of illicit drugs had become one of the most serious social ills. Law enforcement campaigns were frequently frustrated by the ease with which new organizations and channels could be established; they were well organized internationally and had the financial means and the technology to promote their illicit activities and transactions and to carry out money-laundering. The United Nations had played a crucial role in the development of a global strategy to combat the growing menace, and had devised various programmes to help affected countries to deal with that grave problem.

43. The difficult living conditions of Lebanese farmers and the disruption of production and export activities during the war had led many of them to cultivate illicit crops. Once its authority had been re-established, the Government, aware of the magnitude of the threat, had undertaken a firm campaign against illicit drugs in all their aspects. Over the past three years, all fields of illicit crops in the Bekaa Valley had been eradicated, and his Government could now state with pride that Lebanon was free of such plants. The Drug Control Division of the Judiciary Police had been strengthened and all sea terminals that had been used for drug smuggling had been destroyed.

44. With the help of UNDCP, the Lebanese Government was pursuing a crop substitution policy to assist some 500,000 Lebanese nationals living in 240 villages in the Bekaa region. In 1993, in cooperation with UNDP and UNDCP, a new alternative development project had been launched in the Baalbek Hermel district to sustain the Government's eradication efforts; the programme was based on the cultivation of licit crops, the improvement of irrigation schemes and the upgrading of health, educational and social services.

45. His delegation had studied the Secretary-General's reports (A/49/345 and A/49/388) and welcomed the opening of the UNDCP field office in Beirut. It was also grateful for the valuable contribution of UNDCP to the implementation of various projects and programmes, and for its assistance to the Lebanese Government in developing an institutional drug control framework and in providing legal advice for the revision of national legislation in that area. The concept of global interdependence encouraged the international community to continue the struggle against drugs and to adopt firm policies aimed at total narcotics control. However, given the critical situation in which the war had left the infrastructure of basic services, Lebanon needed external aid if it was to succeed in that endeavour and maintain tangible results. He sincerely hoped that aid would be increased and that more contributions would follow.

46. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) noted that India's geographical location between two of the world's largest drug-producing regions had made it a transit country, and underlined that the problem of transit countries needed to be addressed as part of the global programme to control drugs. India was actively cooperating with the drug control activities of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and as a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, it fully subscribed to the views expressed on the subject at the 1994 Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York. Moreover, he reaffirmed India's commitment to combat production, trafficking and consumption of narcotics and psychotropic substances unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally, and to implement the measures recommended in resolution 48/12. India fully subscribed to the idea of regional cooperation. In that context, it welcomed UNDCP's latest initiative for a joint India-Pakistan-UNDCP programme and was open to the idea of extending the programme to other neighbouring countries.

47. India was one of the few countries with a licit production of opium, but supported the view of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) that Governments were obliged to restrict global production of opiate raw materials to match actual needs. Moreover, it welcomed the affirmation of major importers of opium raw material to continue to accord priority to importing raw materials from traditional suppliers. India agreed with INCB on the need for adequate national legislation to control the manufacture and use of precursors, and had adopted various means for monitoring the cultivation of the opium poppy and preventing its diversion to illicit uses.

48. His delegation commended the activities of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNDCP to check money-laundering. It called on those bodies to encourage measures against the diversion of arms and explosives through illicit traffic by land or sea. He drew attention to the pertinent paragraphs of the Rio de Janeiro Declaration of 10 September 1994, and of the Communiqué of the Group of Seven Summit held at Naples.

49. With regard to crime prevention, India particularly supported UNDCP's practical measures to create an exhaustive database covering all aspects of drug-related activities, and to improve methods of extradition and judicial cooperation. It was of particular significance that UNDCP and the Crime

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Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch had taken concrete steps to promote coordination of their activities.

50. In India, and perhaps in other Asian countries, the role of non-governmental organizations had been as important as in Western countries, and a study of the activities of non-governmental organizations in developing societies would greatly assist UNDCP. The cooperation of such organizations was essential for demand reduction. In the area of development activities, all cooperative activities had to give absolute priority to economic development. Cooperation with international financial institutions would be an important contributing factor in the improvement of inter-agency coordination for the control of money-laundering. The development priorities of Governments would have to be central to all development activities.

51. Mr. Cissé (Senegal) resumed the Chair.

52. Ms. FERTEKLIGIL (Turkey) said that the global spread of the drug problem more than ever called for the unswerving commitment of the international community to combat it in the most effective way, and that only the implementation of vigorous and clearly defined strategic methods could stop it. For that reason, Turkey was convinced of the wisdom of a global, multidisciplinary and balanced approach, and of the indispensability of taking all aspects of the problem into consideration, including supply, demand, and illicit trafficking as well as the reintegration of drug addicts into society.

53. Her delegation supported the results obtained by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs during its thirty-seventh session. Faithful to its firm opposition in principle to the proliferation of opiates, Turkey attached importance to the resolution on the demand for and supply of such products for medical and scientific needs. Moreover, it considered that the discussion of international cooperation in that area during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council would permit the formulation of observations and suggestions that would contribute to the analysis of the drug problem. It welcomed the progress made in the areas of precursors and measures to combat money-laundering, and considered that the establishment of a group of experts to prepare proposals for the implementation of resolution 48/12 and of the Working Group on maritime cooperation constituted constructive initiatives in the campaign against narcotic drugs. Collaboration and the exchange of experience and information were important for the conduct of preventive activities and for the detection and suppression of crimes related to the traffic in drugs, a topic that could not be ignored in view of the increasing economic and political power of the drug cartels.

54. The situation called for improved coordination between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, and it therefore seemed appropriate to examine the appropriateness of converting the Branch into a department. Moreover, it would be useful to take advantage of the conclusions of the International Conference on Laundering and Controlling Proceeds of Crime held at Courmayeur in June, and of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime held at Naples.

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55. The structure of society and the quality of education were important factors in combating drugs effectively. Heightening public awareness through the use of audiovisual media, and information and education campaigns aimed at all vulnerable groups, were especially important; no less so were the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of addicts. For that reason, the Turkish Ministry of Public Health had participated directly in the formulation of anti-drug policies. Moreover, research initiatives against drugs were being supported in Turkey, and the contributions of regional forums to the analysis of the drug problem were being taken into account.

56. The efficient functioning of the international system for controlling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances required the broadest possible accession by producing and exporting countries to the judicial instruments in force. It was the responsibility of Governments to ensure the full implementation of the prevention and control measures adopted for the purpose of attaining the goals proposed.

57. Because of its geographic location on the Balkan route, Turkey had been obliged to redouble its monitoring of the illicit traffic, for which purpose it was mobilizing considerable human and material resources. In that regard, Turkey supported the catalytic and guiding role of UNDCP and its multi-dimensional strategy, which had demonstrated their effectiveness in combating illicit drug production, traffic and use. The importance of the collaboration of UNDCP, the Customs Cooperation Council and INTERPOL in the results Turkey had achieved must also be stressed. UNDCP required more resources in order to be able to make maximum use of its capabilities in regional programmes. Moreover, the system-wide Action Plan was not just a document, but an effective framework for action, and efforts to improve the system's policies of programme planning and coordination, which must in turn be strengthened through national programmes, must be supported. In conclusion, she reiterated Turkey's firm commitment and resolve to fight tirelessly against the scourge of drugs and to participate actively in the efforts to achieve its eradication.

58. Mr. AL-DOSARI (Bahrain) reaffirmed the fundamental role of UNDCP in drug control and praised the measures adopted by the United Nations system, referred to in documents A/49/317, A/49/345 and A/49/369. Increased international cooperation should be based on the principles of sovereignty and non-interference embodied in the Charter and in international law. Economic, social and cultural factors should also be taken into account when considering international cooperation measures, especially with regard to money-laundering and the illicit use of narcotic drugs. Although the problem was not considered to be a social phenomenon in Bahrain, the Government was convinced of the importance of the international instruments, which was why it had instituted legislative measures for controlling drugs, punishing illicit drug traffickers and rehabilitating drug addicts. It also fostered the rule of the media in organizing prevention campaigns in schools and youth associations and in pointing out the negative effects of drug abuse on health, morals and socio-economic development.

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59. International cooperation was essential to implement the System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, and the necessary coordination mechanisms should be strengthened. The database to be created as part of the Action Plan should serve the developing countries as a model for exchanging information at the regional and national levels using the most advanced technologies. His Government believed that dialogue should be initiated between UNDCP and the regional organizations on establishing a regional system for drug control, with special emphasis on money-laundering and the extradition of offenders. It also supported the involvement of other organizations in studying the socio-economic consequences of drug abuse and hoped that the World Summit for Social Development would draw up an action plan in that area.

60. Mr. HEGYI (Hungary) said that his country was party to the 1961 and 1971 Conventions and would soon ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The seriousness of the world drug situation made international cooperation and coordination imperative, and UNDCP therefore deserved all necessary support from the United Nations system. Its three-year action plan on the issue of money-laundering, which included advisory services for implementing effective controls, was extremely useful for States confronted with that phenomenon. The special relationship that UNDCP had developed with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat was also important, and Hungary had co-sponsored the Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution on that subject. It also supported the resolutions of the Commission and the Economic and Social Council relating the need to strengthen strategies for comprehensive, integrated programmes on the prevention, reduction and elimination of illicit demand, with particular emphasis on treatment, rehabilitation and information and educational campaigns. Drug abuse was a major factor in the spread of HIV and AIDS, as reflected in the relevant resolution of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

61. Hungary was affected by an emerging problem in the region: advocacy of the legalization of "soft" drugs. It was necessary to refute the underlying misconception by disseminating information on how soft-drug users generally became addicts. Only by implementing a comprehensive, multidisciplinary strategy at every level of society would it be possible to achieve success in the world-wide fight against drug abuse. Supply and demand reduction measures should be instituted at the international, regional, national and local levels.

62. In 1991 the Hungarian Government had created an interministerial drug committee responsible, inter alia, for draft legislation, professional guidelines, strategic planning, national training plans and evaluation of activities in the areas of money-laundering, treatment as an alternative to prison and treatment in prison. Because of the war in the former Yugoslavia, the main route for illicit drug trafficking in the Balkans had shifted to his country. The quantity of illicit narcotic drugs intercepted by the authorities in the first half of 1994 equalled the total for all of 1993. His Government had established the institutional arrangements necessary to deal with the problem. A crime prevention network had been set up at the national and country levels, and the public health service had professionals dealing with the different aspects of the problem. There were 130 health education institutions

disseminating information and 70 secondary schools with classes on the dangers of drug abuse.

63. In addition to innovative methods, the support of UNDCP and other multisectoral international organizations such as the Pompidou Group was also important. With more than two decades of experience as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Hungary was fully aware of the importance of well-balanced supply and demand reduction policies and the need for innovative approaches and adequate funding in the field of prevention, and it would continue to give its full support to the role of UNDCP as coordinator of the world-wide action against drug abuse.

64. Mr. SAKONHNINHOM (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, described by the General Assembly as a crime against humanity, had in recent years taken on alarming proportions, and constituted a serious threat to international security. While consumer and producer countries had a responsibility to take honest and effective joint measures, he agreed with the representative who had spoken on behalf of the European Union that even the most Draconian measures against illicit production and trafficking were insufficient in themselves. Priority must be given to reducing demand, and it therefore welcomed the relevant decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

65. Action against drug abuse and illicit trafficking should be taken in strict conformity with the principles of the Charter and international law, including in particular respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and abstention from the threat or use of force in international relations. His Government was aware of the serious potential consequences of the drug problem, and cooperated closely with various friendly countries and international organizations in order to contribute to world efforts to eradicate that problem. In 1990 it had established, directly under the office of the Prime Minister, a national drug control commission whose primary task was to coordinate all drug-related activities, initiate programmes, monitor project implementation and gather information on drug production, trafficking and abuse. In order to reduce opium production, the Government had carried out an energetic campaign to encourage ethnic minorities gradually to replace opium poppies with other equally profitable crops. In recent years, with the technical and financial assistance of UNDCP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and friendly countries, it had implemented integrated rural development projects whose primary purpose was to offer opium producers economically, socially and environmentally viable alternatives. In 1994, with the assistance of UNDCP, it had drawn up a comprehensive programme for drug control to the year 2000. The programme would cost $35 million, and included 16 projects for improving drug regulation and control, gradually reducing supply by eradicating opium poppy cultivation, establishing a special investigation unit and promoting treatment and rehabilitation activities.

66. In combating drug abuse, the Government attached great importance to suppression. Since 1992, 180 persons, among them 4 aliens, had been detained and prosecuted for possession of cannabis, heroin and opium. The memorandum of

understanding which the Lao People's Democratic Republic had signed with China, Thailand, Myanmar and UNDCP demonstrated the Government's firm resolve to establish and consolidate regional cooperation in the fight against drugs.

67. Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Kazakhstan) said that no country could tackle single-handed the task of halting the rise in drug-related activities. For that reason, the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States had concluded multilateral treaties to combat drug trafficking and agreements on legal assistance in criminal matters; moreover, their judicial bodies were carrying out joint operations in the fight against drug cartels. Kazakhstan shared the Secretary-General's view that the international strategy for drug control should be pursued at three levels - the national, subregional or regional and international levels. International cooperation was needed to ensure that each country established its own flexible coordination mechanism. Kazakhstan had been addressing that task with the assistance of UNDCP ever since the first visit by the Programme's Executive Director in May 1994. On his second visit, in September, the preparation of a draft programme for multilateral technical assistance to Kazakhstan for drug control had been discussed. During that visit, special emphasis had been placed on national legislation and the establishment of an inter-agency coordinating mechanism, and broader contacts had been established between the country's judicial bodies and their counterparts in the countries of Central and South-East Asia. Great importance had also been attached to seeking a reliable mechanism for controlling drugs used for medical and scientific purposes, to the need to provide training and retraining for specialists in the bodies concerned, to the introduction of a computerized system for collecting and storing data on drug offenders and drug-related offences, and to the strengthening of the technical and material infrastructure of judicial institutions.

68. Earlier in November 1994 a regional seminar on juridical matters had been held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, attended by representatives of UNDCP, donor countries and the countries of Central Asia, for the basic purpose of setting up State bodies for the coordination of drug control in those countries and drafting legislation geared to current needs. The adoption of appropriate measures would help strengthen and broaden cooperation between the countries of the region and UNDCP in combating the illicit production and sale of, demand for, traffic in and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In that context, her delegation thanked the UNDCP executive personnel for the effective assistance provided and expressed Kazakhstan's willingness to continue its cooperation with the Programme.

69. Mr. MAMDOUHI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country, as a party to the 1961 and 1988 Conventions, was committed to combating narcotic drugs and giving priority to drug control at the national, regional and international levels. South-West Asia had been affected by new problems such as the rise in illicit trafficking, the spread of the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants, the emergence of new trafficking activities and transit routes in the Central Asian Republics, and the enhanced capability of drug-trafficking organizations, which had at their command substantial financial resources, arms and sophisticated communications.

70. The anti-drug policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was targeted on the eradication of illicit poppy cultivation in the region and combating illicit drug trafficking. The eradication of illicit cultivation should be offset by the introduction of substitute crops and follow-up support. The Islamic Republic of Iran had succeeded in eradicating the production and cultivation of the opium poppy through vigorous measures by the security forces; however, on account of its geographical position, the territory was used by opium, heroin and morphine traffickers as a transit route from the countries of the East to Europe. In 1993, seizures of narcotic drugs and the arrest and prosecution of a large number of persons for drug-related offences had increased because of the strong detection capability and the personnel specially trained to control the long eastern borders. Despite its involvement in national reconstruction, the Islamic Republic of Iran had not failed to invest substantial human and financial resources in the fight against illicit drug trafficking through development projects along the eastern borders, such as the construction of over 1,350 kilometres of road, the establishment of 70 sentry and 140 observation posts to monitor the illicit influx of drugs, and the blocking of passes on the border. The implementation of those projects, which, inter alia, prevented drug smuggling to Europe, had cost over $1,500 million. The Islamic Republic of Iran was also involved in military operations along the eastern borders against caravans and drug smugglers equipped with the latest military hardware.

71. The country's steadfast anti-drug policy, in terms of both judicial and security measures, directed towards preventing the transit of drugs through the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran would benefit the countries of Europe and those situated along the drug transit route. For those reasons, the international community, especially UNDCP, should adequately address the problem of the eradication and substitution of poppy cultivation in South-West Asia. In 1993, UNDCP, now a focal point for drug-control efforts, had established a regional office for South-West Asia covering the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan; that was an important development for the region, since the office provided support for national drug-control measures and monitoring activities funded by UNDCP. That same year, the office had drafted a document signed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and UNDCP as an initial step towards strengthening cross-border drug-law-enforcement capacities. The initiative represented a model cost-sharing arrangement and provided for the sharing of experience in prevention and treatment, the halting of trafficking through increased monitoring, the assessment of illicit crop cultivation and the reduction of illicit cultivation and demand. The Islamic Republic of Iran believed that UNDCP should make greater efforts to bring illicit drug production and poppy cultivation under control, and renewed its commitment to participate in all activities for regional and international cooperation.

72. Mr. de FONDAUMIERE (Deputy Executive Director of UNDCP) said that UNDCP was gratified to note the support for the initiatives taken, especially the subregional focus, the balanced approach to the reduction in supply and demand and the closer cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and UNDCP. As the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had requested, the Executive Director would submit a report to the two Commissions on the status of cooperation

between UNDCP and the Branch. With regard to the Executive Director's appeal for more funds for the Programme, it was to be hoped that the support expressed by representatives would result in larger contributions.

73. With regard to the statement by the Observer for Switzerland, the International Narcotics Control Board thanked the Government of Switzerland for confirming that the project for using heroin for medical treatment would not be a step towards legalizing the non-medicinal use of drugs subject to control. Pursuant to the Convention, the Board had agreed only to the quantity of narcotic drugs requested by the Government of Switzerland for a scientific project covering the use of heroin for 250 drug addicts for a period of three years. It had not expressed its opinion on the merits of the project. It wished, however, to express its grave concern, particularly concerning any extension of the project before a thorough, exhaustive assessment had been carried out.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
22nd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 8 November 1994
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CISSÉ (Senegal)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/49/SR.22
5 December 1994
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 99: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS (A/49/12 and Add.1, A/49/186, A/49/218-S/1994/801, A/49/287 and Corr.1, A/49/380, A/49/533, A/49/534, A/49/577, A/49/578; A/C.3/49/12)

1. Mr. RUDOLPH (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden, said that not only had the number of refugees and displaced persons assisted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) risen, but the nature of refugee situations had become increasingly complex, compounding the difficulties faced by UNHCR in the discharge of its functions. The tragedy in Rwanda had confronted UNHCR with one of the biggest challenges in its history. The European Union, through the European Commission and its member States as well as the acceding States, had responded immediately to the appeal by UNHCR and had contributed some 45 per cent of the amount budgeted for the emergency in Rwanda and Burundi. It was, however, concerned at the deteriorating security situation in the refugee camps and increasing dangers facing relief workers and refugees themselves.

2. Rwanda was only the latest case, but three additional examples could be mentioned which, taken together, highlighted what assisting and protecting refugees meant in the modern world. UNHCR, in cooperation with many other organizations, delivered humanitarian aid to millions of victims of the war in parts of the territory of the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It had been noted with great concern that in several instances, UNHCR's relief operations had had to confront deliberate campaigns of obstruction which constituted a serious violation of international humanitarian law.

3. In Mozambique, on the other hand, UNHCR was about to bring to a successful conclusion the largest organized repatriation of refugees ever undertaken in Africa. In Central America, the process of the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) was an example of close cooperation of a number of agencies as part of an overall political effort to restore peace and security in an entire region. Those and many other achievements would not have been possible without the efforts of the UNHCR staff and the determined leadership of the High Commissioner. In view of the increasing danger to which UNHCR staff were exposed, therefore, the European Union hoped that, as a first step, work on a draft international convention on the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel would soon be concluded and would swiftly enter into force.

4. The best way to cope with a refugee crisis was to prevent it from occurring. Although that was a complex undertaking which must be addressed, as a matter of priority, by the Government concerned, it also required cooperation on the part of the international community. A concerted strategy directed at prevention must include elements of preventive diplomacy, human rights, democracy-building, social and economic development and disaster prevention, to

name but a few. It was imperative that all agencies concerned integrate their activities into a comprehensive approach.

5. The European Union was pleased to note that UNHCR had strengthened its cooperation with the various human rights bodies of the United Nations, in particular the Centre for Human Rights. It was also pleased to see that the Commission on Human Rights had been dealing for some time with issues of direct relevance to the work of UNHCR, and it believed that the Commission should draw on the expertise of UNHCR.

6. All the operations mentioned, including the recent operation in Cambodia in the framework of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), demonstrated that, in order for repatriation to be a sustainable solution, it was first of all necessary to have a general political framework so as to stabilize internal peace and security. It was first and foremost the responsibility of the countries of origin to create a climate conducive to the return of refugees. Political reconciliation must, however, be complemented by social and economic consolidation. Integration projects often had to address the needs of returnees, internally displaced persons and also those who had never left the affected areas. When the focus of support programmes shifted from repatriation to development, other agencies would have to take over the functions of lead agency previously fulfilled by UNHCR. The European Union supported the efforts of UNHCR, development agencies, the World Bank and the regional development banks. Governments had responsibility to protect internally displaced persons, and they should be urged to respect the principles of human rights and international humanitarian law. UNHCR could play a valuable role, but other agencies and organizations should also become involved.

7. That was equally true for emergency situations, and in that context, it was necessary to draw attention to the important functions of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The European Union called on participating agencies and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to make full use of that structure with a view to ensuring maximum coordination of their respective efforts. Regarding coordination in the field of humanitarian relief, the invaluable contribution of non-governmental organizations should be recognized, in particular the Partnership in Action process. The Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Global Conference held in Oslo contained a wealth of proposals in that regard.

8. Turning to the question of asylum in Europe, he said that the European Union had taken in many victims of armed conflict, in accordance with the relevant international instruments and the legislation of each State. With the entry into force of the Treaty on the European Union, asylum policies and legislation would be harmonized and a clear distinction established between refugees and economic migrants. The Convention of Dublin would, once it entered into force, establish common rules for the examination of applications for asylum within the European Union and provide safeguards for the consideration of individual requests for asylum in an effective and timely manner.

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9. The European Union, whose members, along with Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden, were among the major contributors to UNHCR's programmes, called upon all Governments to contribute generously to the proposed budget of UNHCR. He stressed the importance of broadening the donor base and achieving a more equitable sharing of financial burdens; that goal had yet to be achieved. Only then would the needs of the refugees in the world be met.

10. Mr. ADECHI (Benin) said that, although the end of the cold war had promoted international agreement and the establishment of mechanisms for the voluntary repatriation of many refugees, especially in Africa and Asia, some centres of tension threatening peace and security had yet to be eliminated. In Africa, there were currently over 6 million refugees and 15 million displaced persons, and the organizations that attempted to assist them were being attacked and coming up against obstacles showing the provision of humanitarian assistance. Because it had sought to improve security conditions, the United Nations had seen its impartiality and neutrality called into question. Consequently, permanent solutions must be found at the global level.

11. It was disturbing to hear that women and children accounted for 80 per cent of refugees and displaced persons, and that 32 per cent of them were in Africa. That situation, jeopardized resources intended for development, and placed a heavy burden on host countries, especially the least developed countries, adversely affecting their economies and their environmental balance; accordingly it called for reflection.

12. By all indications, the causes of the displacement were extreme poverty and serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Accordingly, in order to eliminate those conditions, and to facilitate the safe repatriation of refugees to their countries of origin, a two-pronged approach was needed: in the short term, to alleviate their suffering and in the long term, to secure their full enjoyment of human rights and the eradication of poverty so as to prevent those conditions from recurring.

13. It was essential to support the work of UNHCR in order to promote greater cooperation among the relevant agencies and facilitate prompt and non-discriminatory assistance to refugees, because the survival of millions of people was at stake. Accordingly, attention should be drawn to the priority given by the High Commissioner to refugee women and children and to her work on the Guidelines on Refugee Children. Over the long term, it was essential to take appropriate measures to recognize and protect human rights, including those of minorities, and to establish procedures for the equitable settlement of conflicts. Thus, the importance of the Decade for human rights education should be emphasized.

14. Benin had always supported the work of the United Nations in that area and it had done its share by standing by, and granting asylum to all who sought refuge in its territory. Ambassador Réné Valéry Monbe had been invited to preside over the opening session of the international round-table meeting on the question of refugees held in New York in 1993 under the auspices of the "Path to Peace" Foundation. The workshop held in Cotonou, at the initiative of UNHCR and

the Government of Benin, on the situation of refugees in Africa was another example of Benin's interest in the issue. Furthermore, the reopening of the local UNHCR office in Cotonou, which had become a delegation, had facilitated the coordination required for the success of the programmes of assistance to refugees in Benin.

15. His delegation joined those which had recommended that account be taken of refugee flows in preparing the economic recovery programmes, which were to supplement emergency assistance both in the countries of asylum and in the context of the voluntary repatriation of refugees. Likewise, it supported the holding of a United Nations conference for a comprehensive review and study of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants. Finally, he expressed the hope that the United Nations Year for Tolerance would raise international awareness of the problem in order to strengthen international solidarity and cooperation.

16. Mr. OLANIYAN (Observer for the Organization of African Unity) said that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was one of the vital organs of the United Nations for the welfare of mankind. The number of conflicts in different regions of the world continued to increase and the challenges which that situation posed to the international community called for renewed efforts to solve the problems of refugees and displaced persons. For that reason, the international community must acknowledge as a matter of urgency that the nature of those problems had been transformed as a result of rapid global development.

17. As indicated in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/49/12), 1993 had been a remarkable year in the history of UNHCR operations, particularly in terms of the magnitude of the crises it had had to cope with in the context of available resources. The total number of refugees, including internally displaced persons, had attained a record level of 16.4 million people. The major crises throughout the world had imposed an almost insupportable burden on the capacity of UNHCR. In accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group on Programme Management and Operational Capacity, UNHCR had taken a number of measures in order to function effectively, but, it had become obvious that the international community needed to do more to ensure that UNHCR became more effective.

18. As far as Africa was concerned, he reiterated that refugee problems remained one of the priority areas of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) since there continued to be conflicts which directly contributed to the aggravation of poverty in the affected areas and in neighbouring countries. The OAU Bureau for Refugees, in collaboration with UNHCR, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, endeavoured to publicize the causes and consequences of refugee movements in Africa and to promote the resettlement of refugees with relevant professional or academic qualifications by providing them with employment opportunities. Since its establishment, and despite considerable financial constraints, the OAU Bureau for Refugees had done its utmost to resolve the problems of refugees in various parts of Africa, more recently in East Africa, Southern Africa, the Horn of Africa and West Africa

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which had, disappointingly, remained areas of high political tension and conflict.

19. The Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, adopted in 1969, had been a valuable instrument, but the fact that the African continent was host to the largest number of refugees and displaced persons in the world - 7 million and 15 million people respectively - reinforced the need for appropriate and effective solutions at all levels. For that reason, the Conference of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Tunisia in June 1994, had stressed the need for the rededication of African States to the effective implementation of the Convention through the promulgation of appropriate legislation on refugees and had called for the support of the international community.

20. While there was no need to emphasize the role played by UNHCR, that role should be enhanced through the consolidation of humanitarian law and human rights law. OAU urged the international community to improve the implementation of existing principles in order to make them more relevant to the needs of refugees. The proposed United Nations conference for the comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants might well be the ideal forum for the articulation of the basic issues and for recommendations regarding durable solutions. In the meantime, Member States should be encouraged to assume more responsibility for the welfare of people within their territory, and the international community should increase its financial and material assistance to economically weak Member States, particularly those in Africa, which hosted refugees, since the latter imposed an additional burden on their already fragile socio-economic structures.

21. UNHCR had mechanisms which enabled it to cooperate with regional institutions or organizations in the exercise of its functions; strengthening those mechanisms would help UNHCR to attain its objectives. Such cooperation could be very beneficial. The unprecedented rise in the funding needs of UNHCR in 1993 could continue in the immediate future until the current conflicts came to an end. That was why increased resources should be provided to UNHCR for both its General and Special Programmes in order to enhance its capacity to cope with its regular and emergency operations.

AGENDA ITEM 93: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.2

22. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. He announced that Armenia, Cyprus, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Maldives and Senegal had also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

23. Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.2 was adopted without a vote.

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Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.3

24. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. He announced that Cyprus, Egypt, Guatemala, Portugal, Senegal and Spain had also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

25. Mr. NKENGURUTSE (Burundi) said that he wished to make some comments before draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.3 was adopted. His delegation had at the time expressed its profound gratitude to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for its sympathetic consideration of the case of Burundi. However, he wished to reiterate his reservations with respect to some of the Committee's conclusions in paragraphs 30 to 52 of its report (A/49/18). In that regard, he invited the Committee to refer to his delegation's statement in the Third Committee on 17 October 1994, when it had clarified certain conclusions which had failed to take the complex situation in his country into account. The new coalition Government of Burundi took the opportunity to invite the Committee to intensify its contacts with it so as to obtain more balanced information.

26. Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.3 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.8

27. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

28. Mr. AGGREY (Ghana), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Group of African States, made a number of oral revisions to the draft resolution. The following new sixth preambular paragraph should be added to the text:

> "Taking note of the recommendation to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session to examine the possibility of convening a World Conference on the elimination of racism, racial and ethnic discrimination, xenophobia and other related contemporary forms of intolerance, to take place in 1997."

The current sixth preambular paragraph should be amended to read:

> "Stressing the importance of the activities of the special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination xenophobia and related intolerance;"

The current fifteenth preambular paragraph should be amended to read:

> "Deeply concerned about the fact that the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continues to increase despite efforts undertaken by the international community to improve the protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families;"

Paragraph 1 should be amended to read:

> "Declares once again that all forms of racism and racial discrimination, whether in their institutionalized form or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity, such as ethnic cleansing, are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means;"

At the end of paragraph 7, the words "in view of its possible entry into force" should be deleted.

In paragraph 7 (g) of the annex, the words in parentheses should be deleted and the text should be amended to read:

> "(g) Seminar on the enactment of national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination affecting ethnic groups, migrant workers and refugees in all parts of the world;"

In paragraph 7 (h) of the Annex, the words in parentheses should be deleted.

29. Mr. BOLACHMARINOV (Russian Federation) proposed that in the ninth preambular paragraph the words "ethnic origin" should be inserted after the word "nationality". In paragraph 1, after the words "or exclusivity", the phrase "and in particular its institutionalized form which, inter alia, can lead to abominable acts" should be inserted; the rest of the paragraph should remain unchanged.

30. In its resolution 48/91, the General Assembly had invited the Secretary-General to submit proposals concerning the Programme of Action for the Third Decade. In his delegation's view, those proposals, which were set out in document A/49/464, should be reflected in the draft resolution under consideration. The adoption of a decision on the draft resolution should accordingly be postponed until all the necessary amendments had been included.

31. Mr. REZVANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) proposed that in the preamble to the draft resolution, reference should be made to racism and racial discrimination in such a way as to cover all forms of discrimination against Blacks, Arabs and Muslims, xenophobia, negrophobia, anti-Semitism and related forms of intolerance. He recalled that similar wording had already been used in a resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its most recent session. He also proposed that the fifteenth or sixteenth preambular paragraph should make reference to "stringent immigration policies", a concept which had been taken from the text adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held at Cairo (A/49/287, para. 119). His third amendment concerned paragraph 6: the words "the right of persons to worship, assemble and observe their religious traditions" should be added at the end of that paragraph.

32. Mr. BLACKMAN (Barbados) and Mr. AGGREY (Ghana), speaking as Chairmen of the Group of African States and on behalf of the sponsors, proposed that the adoption of a decision on draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.8 should be deferred.

33. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 94: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/49/L.6*, L.4 and L.7)

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.6*

34. Mr. OTUYELU (Nigeria), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.6* entitled "Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination", welcomed the fact that the international community regarded mercenary activities as immoral and illegal. Mercenaries could also be regarded as international terrorists, since they destroyed economic structures and human lives; their chief victims were usually women and defenceless children. The recognition of the illegality of mercenary activities had led the international community to approve the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to formulate specific recommendations for effectively dealing with the problem. He referred to some of the main operative paragraphs of the draft resolution and urged Committee members to support it in an expression of solidarity against mercenary activities.

35. He proposed the following revisions in draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.6*. The following new paragraph should be inserted between the third and fourth preambular paragraphs: "Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples and their liberation movements for their independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial domination and foreign intervention and occupation, and that their legitimate struggle can in no way be considered as, or equated with, a mercenary activity,". In paragraph 3, the words "and activities to threaten the territorial integrity of any sovereign State" should be added after "the activities of mercenaries". The words "within its existing resources working meetings to analyse and consider" should be added after "and to consider" in the fourth line of paragraph 6. In paragraph 7, "with specific recommendations" should be added after "to report".

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.4

36. The CHAIRMAN said that Guatemala had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.4.

37. Ms. DIOP (Senegal) said that Senegal wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

38. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

39. It was so decided.

40. Ms. MURUGESAN (India), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, said that India had not opposed the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote, without prejudice to its position in respect of the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In that connection, her Government wished to state that the words "right of self-determination" applied only to peoples under foreign domination and not to sovereign independent States, or to some of the people or part of the territory of a nation, which constituted the essence of national integrity. Her delegation wished to stress the concern expressed in the Vienna Declaration that, in accordance with the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the right of self-determination should not be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.7

41. Ms. STARR-NEWELL (Secretary of the Committee) read out again the oral revisions announced by Gambia in introducing draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.7.

42. Mr. AGGREY (Ghana), speaking as Chairman of the Group of African States and on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, said that, in addition to the oral revisions announced, the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 5 and 6 should be deleted. An earlier version of the resolution had addressed problems relating to the abhorrent practice of apartheid, the right of peoples to self-determination and the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights. It had therefore contained not only references to a South Africa which practised apartheid, but also to other countries in southern Africa which had ties to that regime. It was universally known that South Africa had experienced a peaceful transition to a democratic and non-racial regime, where human rights were guaranteed by a charter of basic rights. Thus, the sponsors had decided to delete the references to those countries which had ties to the apartheid regime. None the less, they were aware that the problems relating to self-determination were unresolved and they had thus drawn the Committee's attention to the resolution and requested the adoption of appropriate measures.

43. Mr. BOUCHMARINOV (Russian Federation) said that draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.7 was very long and complex. Unfortunately, the year before, it had been impossible to achieve a consensus on the resolution adopted (resolution 48/94). Some delegations had abstained and others had voted against it. The fundamental changes which had taken place on the African continent had made it possible to amend the text of the resolution now submitted by the Group of African States, but the title and the agenda item under which the draft resolution was considered had remained the same. In his view, the question of self-determination should be considered together with the question of universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, fully respecting the principles relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. The realization of one people's right of self-determination should not be

allowed to result in the displacement of another. General Assembly resolutions had greater moral suasion when they did not provoke objections of principle and were adopted in Committee without a vote. His delegation had no objection to the adoption of the draft resolution but wished to propose a number of amendments. In paragraph 7, the phrase "and in accordance with Security Council resolutions" should be added after "Organization of African Unity". Paragraph 12 should read "all persons who have not committed crimes against peace or humanity who are detained or imprisoned". Paragraph 11 could be deleted, since another draft resolution on the use of mercenaries had been submitted very recently. He wished to draw the sponsors' attention to the fact that the preambular and operative paragraphs could be updated, in particular those paragraphs which referred to matters which had become the internal affairs of States or to questions on which bilateral agreements had been concluded and which therefore did not require special attention from the international community.

44. Mr. AGGREY (Ghana) said that the questions raised by the representative of the Russian Federation had already been addressed when the draft resolution had been introduced. The Russian representative had referred to questions on which bilateral agreements had been concluded. It was precisely with those questions in mind that the sponsors had deleted the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 5 and 6. The sponsors believed that the amendments proposed by the Russian Federation would strengthen the text of the draft resolution and therefore saw no reason not to accept them.

45. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) requested that the adoption of the draft resolution be deferred so that he could consider the proposed amendments and consult his Government.

46. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) pointed out that the Chairman of the Group of African States had officially requested that a decision be taken on the draft resolution that same day, a request which his delegation supported.

47. Mr. AGGREY (Ghana) said that if the amendments were adopted certain paragraphs would be deleted, and he therefore saw no reason why delegations had to consult their Governments.

48. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that he had instructions to request a recorded vote on draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.7. If that was the wish of the Committee, he would not have to seek instructions, but if the paragraphs referred to were deleted, he would be unable to support the resolution without prior authorization from his Government.

49. Ms. MURUGESAN (India) requested additional time to consider the amendments that had been proposed.

50. Mrs. DIOP (Senegal) said that in the light of the amendments just proposed by the Russian Federation and in view of the wish expressed by two delegations to defer the adoption of the draft resolution in order to allow them to consult

their Governments and adopt the text by consensus, she wished to request that the delay be granted.

51. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that he also wished the adoption of the draft resolution to be deferred, since the proposal to delete certain paragraphs might require some delegations to consult their Governments.

52. Mr. BOUCHMARINOV (Russian Federation) said that the amended text should be reissued to ensure clarity and to enable delegations to consider it and adopt it by consensus.

53. The CHAIRMAN asked the representative of Ghana, who was the spokesman for the sponsors, whether he wished a decision to be taken on the draft resolution, in which case it might be necessary to proceed to a vote, or whether the decision's adoption could be deferred in an effort to arrive at a consensus.

54. Mr. AGGREY (Ghana) said that the sponsors wished the draft resolution to be adopted by consensus and that if the Committee needed additional time for negotiations, he saw no difficulty in deferring the adoption of the decision.

55. Mr. OULD MOHAMED MAHMOUD (Mauritania) said that he had no objection to the remarks by the representative of Ghana. Nevertheless, he wished to point out that, as a matter of procedure, amendments to a draft resolution should be introduced at the outset of the negotiations on the text and not when the time came to vote on it, particularly in the current situation, when the Group of African States had been very flexible, had considered all the proposed amendments and had accepted most of them.

56. Mr. FERNÁNDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said that he fully shared the view expressed by the representative of Mauritania.

57. Mr. BLACKMAN (Barbados) said that it was his understanding that the representative of the Russian Federation had proposed the deletion of operative paragraph 11 of draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.7 because the Committee had already adopted a resolution on the question of mercenaries; however, his delegation believed that there were fundamental differences between the two texts and therefore did not agree that the paragraph should be deleted.

58. Mr. AGGREY (Ghana) pointed out that the representative of the Russian Federation had proposed amendments to operative paragraphs 7 and 12, and had only suggested the deletion of paragraph 11. However, he had no intention of deleting that paragraph.

59. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) said that the practice of introducing last-minute amendments to draft resolutions usually caused confusion, since the amendments were made orally and delegations therefore did not interpret them in the same way. He therefore requested all delegations to endeavour to submit written amendments to the sponsors sufficiently in advance.

AGENDA ITEM 95: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.9

60. Mr. SUTOYO (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which were members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, after referring to the preambular paragraphs, said that if the draft resolution was adopted the General Assembly would decide to devote four of its plenary meetings at its fiftieth session to mark the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year as close as possible to 24 October and to adopt the world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond. An international youth day also would be designated at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General was urged to give all possible support, in the form of both regular and extrabudgetary resources, to the programme.

61. He had held consultations with delegations from various groups and with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and he proposed the inclusion of the following new paragraph 6, to be inserted after paragraph 5:

> "6. Encourages Member States to ensure that youth and youth organizations are given appropriate opportunity to be involved in and to contribute to discussions at the national level leading to the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year."

62. In the first line of operative paragraph 3, "two" plenary meetings should be changed to "four"; in the first line of paragraph 4, "two" plenary meetings should be changed to "four"; and in the first line of the former paragraph 6, "consider" should be replaced by "give particular consideration to".

63. The Non-Aligned Movement hoped that the draft resolution, like the other draft resolutions on the item, would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.11

64. Mr. VOS (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, said that the draft resolution was an important one for youth all over the world, as was its subject, namely, the need for better communication between youth, youth organizations and Governments in order to attack the problems concerning youth which the Committee had been discussing under the item "Social development".

65. The current year's resolution was of particular importance because 1995 was the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, and Member States were therefore invited to include youth representatives in their delegations. It was necessary to enhance and strengthen communication channels between youth and the United Nations.

66. Consultations had been held to avoid any overlap between the draft resolution under consideration and the text submitted by the Indonesian

delegation on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (A/C.3/49/L.9), and he hoped that the two draft resolutions would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/49/L.10

67. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution at the request of its sponsors.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-NINTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
23rd meeting
held on
Wednesday, 9 November 1994
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 23rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CISSE (Senegal)

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AGENDA ITEM 99: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/49/SR.23
28 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 99: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS (continued) (A/49/12 and Add.1, A/49/218-S/1994/801, A/49/287 and Corr.1, 380, 533, 534, 577 and Corr.1, 578; A/C.3/49/12)

1. Mrs. OGATA (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) said that in the past year, the number of refugees and internally displaced and other persons of concern to UNHCR had exceeded 27 million, confronting the Office with the dual challenge of massive emergencies as well as large-scale repatriation operations. UNHCR had had to respond to several successive emergencies in the Great Lakes region of Africa, which had produced over 2 million refugees. In the former Yugoslavia, the Office had continued its humanitarian activities on behalf of some 4 million refugees, internally displaced persons and besieged civilians. In Haiti, Central America and South Asia, there had been progress towards solutions, but Eastern Europe and Central Asia remained regions beset by coerced population movements.

2. Strengthening the Office's emergency preparedness and response capacity had been a priority. The scale and speed of the outflow of almost 1 million refugees from Rwanda into Zaire in the space of one week in July had been overwhelming. It had been necessary to devise innovative emergency assistance "packages", using donor government personnel and facilities. Based on its experience in the former Yugoslavia and Zaire, UNHCR was now actively considering limited use of military support, while maintaining civilian control and the multinational character of its humanitarian operations.

3. Although providing relief to victims was often the first response, the essence of the humanitarian challenge lay in protection. Brutal conflicts and blatant violations of humanitarian law, the militarization of refugee situations and the erosion of States' capacities to provide security complicated the protection of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons. Overcrowded camps and the free flow of arms aggravated the situation. Refugee women and children were most at risk. The international protection provided by the Office focused increasingly on promoting physical security. It sought to establish an early and massive presence in the field, decongest camps, introduce special security measures for refugee women and train and assist government officials. The Office, however, could not take upon itself the responsibility of Governments to enforce laws and deal with armed gangs, former soldiers and militia members who threatened the refugees.

4. She was deeply concerned about the lack of security in the refugee camps in eastern Zaire, where the military and militia of the former Rwandan regime were endangering the lives of refugees and humanitarian workers, disrupting the delivery of relief and essential services and obstructing voluntary repatriation. At a meeting chaired by the Secretary-General the previous day, it had been agreed that top priority would be given to that issue and that

concrete steps would be worked out involving international police and/or military deployment to be proposed to the Security Council. While she was encouraged by recent developments to provide temporary protection in situations of large-scale influx of refugees, she was disturbed at the growing reluctance of many States to keep their borders open. In the face of persecution, war and violence, it was necessary to uphold the institution of asylum, at least on a temporary basis.

5. The ultimate objective of international protection of refugees was to gain time to find solutions to refugee problems. Voluntary repatriation, wherever possible, was the ideal solution. The search for humanitarian solutions to refugee problems depended greatly on political initiatives and sustained political commitment. Providing protection also presented the most difficult dilemma in repatriation operations. Too often refugees were returning to situations of acute crisis, if not open conflict, as in Liberia, Somalia and Afghanistan. The Office therefore was emphasizing the need to create an environment of confidence and security in Rwanda. The recent signing of the tripartite agreement between the Governments of Rwanda and Zaire with UNHCR was an important first step in that direction.

6. As the situations in Cambodia and El Salvador had shown, a greater operational human rights role by the United Nations could be a valuable confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations and also have a preventive impact. Accordingly, she urged the international community to support UNHCR efforts to deploy human rights monitors in Rwanda. She also welcomed the human rights verification mission to Guatemala and hoped that all parties would cooperate so that a solution could be found for the Guatemalan refugees and displaced persons.

7. Since the promotion of human rights was of vital importance to the Office's work, it had sought to increase its cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms and share relevant experience and expertise with the High Commissioner and the Centre for Human Rights. Nevertheless, it must be stressed that the task of UNHCR was to assist victims. Its role was humanitarian, not judgemental. Solutions to the refugee problem required a greater emphasis not only on human rights, but also on economic security. Efforts could be meaningful only if they were placed in the larger framework of national rehabilitation, economic and social development and democratization of war-torn societies. The international community must show a greater commitment to post-conflict rehabilitation. She was disappointed at the lack of interest by the international community in consolidating efforts in Tajikistan, although the operation had been hailed as a rare success for the United Nations integrated approach. The socio-economic causes of displacement must be recognized and addressed energetically. It was hoped that the World Summit for Social Development would help focus attention on the links between social disintegration and human displacement and mobilize greater support for a preventive and solution-oriented strategy to deal with refugee problems.

8. The situation in the Community of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States represented perhaps the greatest challenge for a regional approach in

preventing and resolving those problems. The Office was actively considering the possibility of convening an international conference in 1995 to devise a comprehensive strategy to address population movements in that region. The success of that process, however, would depend on the commitment of the Governments concerned and the contributions by the international community.

9. Although the human suffering in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained horrendous, the activities of UNHCR, UNPROFOR and other organizations had helped to save lives and contain a humanitarian crisis that threatened the stability of Europe. The future, however, was highly unpredictable in view of the continuing displacement of people, the obstruction of humanitarian access, worsening security and the onset of a third winter of war. She urged Governments to respond generously to the Office's financial needs for 1994 and to the appeal for humanitarian assistance in the former Yugoslavia for the first half of 1995.

10. The volatile situations that had endangered the protection of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons had also affected the safety of UNHCR and other humanitarian staff. She expressed appreciation to the delegations that had supported the initiative of making a draft convention on the safety and security of United Nations staff and associated personnel applicable to humanitarian staff, who were in the same danger as the peace-keepers, but were less protected, although their tasks were equally meritorious.

11. In confronting the challenges facing it, UNHCR had sought to intensify its traditional cooperation with sister United Nations agencies as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Organization for Migration and non-governmental organizations. At the same time, it had forged new partnerships in the political and military arenas both within the United Nations and with regional organizations and entities. Since the refugee problem affected international peace, stability and economic progress, a symbiotic relationship was developing between the political initiatives and developmental activities of the United Nations and its humanitarian action. Nevertheless, the non-political and impartial nature of the Office's mandate must be preserved and perceived as such by all. That was essential to the credibility of its humanitarian work and its ability to protect human beings and find solutions to their problems.

12. As political, military and humanitarian mandates interacted in multifaceted United Nations operations, all actors must understand and respect each other's roles and responsibilities. A clear structure and division of labour must be established at an early stage in such operations. The Emergency Relief Coordinator should act rapidly in consultation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to assign responsibilities in complex emergencies. By protecting and assisting individuals in an impartial manner, the Office enhanced human welfare, helped to reduce tensions and promoted reconciliation. UNHCR needed the political and moral support of Member States to maintain its unique humanitarian mandate and required their generous financial support to sustain its programmes. Lastly, she stressed the need to develop a bold plan of action to meet the new challenges confronting the Organization.

13. Mr. Borg OLIVIER (Department of Humanitarian Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on emergency international assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan (A/49/380), said that the cease-fire in effect since May 1994 in Nagorny Karabakh had been reinforced by an agreement signed by all parties in July 1994. The deployment of peace-keeping troops or monitors was under consideration and there was widespread hope that the conflict would be resolved. Nevertheless, the political environment in the region remained fragile and tense. The economic and social situation in Azerbaijan and throughout the Caucasus region had continued to deteriorate rapidly in the past year. Conditions were very difficult for large numbers of people, particularly those displaced by the conflict. Unemployment was rising because of severe reductions in industrial output and agricultural production was steadily falling. The number of refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan was just under 900,000. The Government had reiterated its request to bring to the attention of donors the assistance needs of the population affected. Citing its inability to cope with the emergency, it expressed particular concern about the coming winter, which promised to be very difficult.

14. The report in document A/49/380 provided detailed information on the extent of the problems in all sectors. In view of their magnitude and the large number of persons concerned, much remained to be done. The report also provided information on activities carried out by the humanitarian community as well as bilateral activities by Member States. While continuing to provide emergency assistance to the most vulnerable groups, the humanitarian community should move towards longer-term projects to promote self-sufficiency. The Government of Azerbaijan must take the necessary steps, together with the relevant regional and international organizations, to address the root causes of the problems. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs was initiating the process of preparing the next consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Caucasus region, to be launched in early 1995. In cooperation with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in Azerbaijan, the Department would play a leading role in ensuring that the United Nations system responded in an appropriate manner and that the next appeal clearly reflected the transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and development while targeting relief assistance to those who needed it the most. The success of those efforts would depend entirely on effective international support.

15. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the new international humanitarian order (A/49/577), he said that in pursuance of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the question since 1981, the Secretary-General had been regularly transmitting to the Assembly views or information from Governments and organizations on questions relating to their respective humanitarian concerns. In reviewing the question of a new humanitarian order, as called for under General Assembly resolution 47/106, the Secretary-General wished to draw the attention of Governments to recent important efforts made by the United Nations to respond more effectively to challenges posed by the increasing number and complexity of humanitarian emergencies and to promoting respect for human rights.

16. The Emergency Relief Coordinator, supported by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, worked closely with the operational agencies of the United Nations and Governments in facilitating a timely and comprehensive response to humanitarian crises around the world. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/182, more systematic efforts had been initiated to advance the role of the United Nations to serve as an advocate for humanitarian principles. Efforts had also been made to strengthen public understanding of, and support for, humanitarian assistance activities, including promoting respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law. The replies received from Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and other organizations were contained in the annex to the report.

17. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) commended the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and her staff on their commitment to the cause of refugees, displaced persons and migrants, paying tribute to those who had lost their lives in the discharge of their duties.

18. Among the notable achievements of UNHCR, she drew attention to the repatriation operation in Cambodia as well as activities under the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees. The Philippines supported the concept of the voluntary repatriation of refugees, in dignified and safe conditions as well as efforts to integrate them in their countries of origin. With regard to Vietnamese refugees in the Philippines, while their repatriation was a triumph of international goodwill, her delegation would appreciate the assistance of the countries concerned in the task of their orderly resettlement.

19. Despite the progress made much work still needed to be done. For as long as ethnic conflicts, civil strife, military confrontation, human rights violations and natural and man-made disasters occurred, the problem of refugees and displaced persons would not disappear. The number of refugees and displaced persons was now greater than ever before and the High Commissioner should not be left to shoulder that burden alone; it was the responsibility of the international community to continue its search for a sustainable and durable solution. Her delegation had supported General Assembly resolution 48/113 on the convening of the United Nations conference for the comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants. It also concurred with the majority of countries who, in response to a UNHCR request to submit their views on the conference, had underscored the need for a comprehensive regional and/or global approach based on international cooperation and solidarity. For although regional conferences were useful in addressing specific problems at the regional level, a plan of action of general applicability was required.

20. Her delegation associated itself with efforts to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants, including migrant workers were part of a policy of sustained human development. Her delegation would also support initiatives to protect the rights of such persons, particularly women and children, the most vulnerable among them. UNHCR must continue to coordinate and cooperate with the organizations dealing with humanitarian law, human rights and migration, including the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, the

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Such cooperation and the support of member States, NGOs and the various United Nations human rights bodies would galvanize global efforts to ensure the protection and restore the hope of the millions of people who had lost their homes, families, countries and people.

21. Mr. Kwang Jae LEE (Republic of Korea) paid tribute to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and her staff, particularly the UNHCR field officers, for their dedication and courageous efforts in the face of difficult challenges over the last year and pledged his delegation's support for UNHCR activities. The refugee situation had deteriorated world wide, with an increase in the number of refugees due to continued political and ethnic violence resulting in human tragedies such as that in Rwanda. The international community must now share the responsibility for such events and adopt a comprehensive approach to address the root causes of flight and meet the needs of refugees. It must reflect upon the effects of the existing world economic and humanitarian order with a view to redressing imbalances, and should recognize the importance of UNHCR as the leading relief and assistance agency in the context of global security.

22. The international community had failed to meet the special needs of women and children, who now constituted 80 per cent of the world's refugees. Further efforts must be made to protect them, particularly against violence, and to provide them with proper humanitarian assistance. His delegation welcomed the UNHCR Guidelines on Refugee Children and looked forward to concrete action plans in that connection. The participation of women refugees in planning and implementing humanitarian assistance should be encouraged and related issues should be taken up during the preparatory meetings for the World Summit for Social Development as well as the Fourth World Conference on Women.

23. In order to forestall any further exodus of internally displaced persons which would threaten global security, the international community should support UNHCR initiatives such as the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force on internally displaced persons. Moreover, while the responsibility for such persons belonged to the Governments of their countries of origin, efforts should be made to draw the latter into a framework of international cooperation for preventive and containment strategies.

24. The human rights aspect of the refugee situation caused grave concern and the Republic of Korea would welcome the establishment of a monitoring system to prevent all forms of maltreatment and human rights violations among refugees and internally displaced persons.

25. A further matter of concern was asylum: the international community must not allow changing realities to lead to greater restrictions on the right of asylum, and should uphold the principles enshrined in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol. The problem of developing countries and especially the least developed countries in coping with most of the world's refugees also had to be addressed. Each nation bore a share of responsibility and should assist UNHCR through, inter alia, increasing its voluntary financial contributions. His

Government had decided to give its financial support to the assistance programme for Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh and increase its contribution to UNHCR in future.

26. The seemingly insurmountable problem of refugees could be overcome through cooperation and partnership, as borne out by progress made in recent years as a result of greater coordination between UNHCR and relevant government, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Successful joint projects for refugees included repatriation programmes for the citizens of Mozambique, Cambodia and Myanmar. The UNHCR strategy for prevention, preparedness and solutions had also improved due to institution-building and training endeavours in countries at risk as well as its work in the broader context of peace-building and peace-making operations under, inter alia, General Assembly resolution 48/57. Further coordination between UNHCR and United Nations development programmes and organizations concerned with peace-keeping operations were the key to finding a durable solution to the refugee problem.

27. He welcomed the political and structural changes in UNHCR aimed at improving its relations with NGOs, which played a vital role in providing humanitarian assistance for refugees - "Partnership in Action" was an exemplary model of cooperation. In conclusion he paid tribute to the relief personnel who risked their lives to bring humanitarian assistance to those in need, stressing the importance of ensuring their safety through appropriate legal and other measures for their protection.

28. Mr. WANG Min (China) said that although the international community had achieved considerable progress during the past year in addressing refugee problems in certain areas, many current situations in other parts of the world remained virtually unchanged, and the total numbers of concern to the High Commissioner had increased from 19 million to 23 million. Dealing with that situation, and preventing the emergence of additional refugees, was a serious challenge for the international community. Only a clear understanding of the root causes of the refugee issue could lead to an effective solution. In addition to foreign aggression and intervention, territorial disputes, internal ethnic or religious conflict, extreme economic deterioration, and natural disasters, economic sanctions and embargoes should not be overlooked as causes of refugee problems. To eliminate those root causes, a more just world-wide political and economic order should be established on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. His Government had consistently advocated simultaneous efforts to eliminate the root causes and to provide international protection and humanitarian assistance.

29. Existing international agreements had had a positive impact on the provision of protection to refugees over the years; however, with the passage of time, they had revealed their limitations. UNHCR had introduced many internal standards and developed new norms, and regional instruments had appropriately enlarged the definition of refugees in accordance with local situations. His Government supported current efforts to explore ways to perfect that definition, to improve the refugee protection system, and to formulate new guidelines for the work of UNHCR. Solving the refugee problem called for joint efforts by

countries of asylum, of resettlement, of origin, and donor countries. The Rwandan refugee crisis had been mitigated by the international community's swift response; that showed the particular importance of close cooperation and burden-sharing.

30. The non-political and humanitarian character of UNHCR had been a sure guarantee for the smooth conduct of its activities, as was seen in the forty-fifth report of the Executive Committee. He hoped that UNHCR would continue to adhere to that principle as well as the Charter of the United Nations and its own mandate.

31. He appealed to the international community not to neglect the needs of existing refugees while addressing the needs of new refugees. Assistance to the host countries of existing refugees should be continued in order to help them develop their economies, for economic development would be crucial to the successful settlement of refugees and to the prevention of irregular migratory flows. China would continue to play its part in common efforts to address the world's refugee problems.

32. Mr. DUCARM (Romania) expressed appreciation of the work performed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and staff in particularly difficult circumstances, thus building confidence in the Offices' future activities. Romania had become a host or transit country in recent years for refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, while the number of Romanian citizens leaving the country had decreased significantly due to national, political and economic reforms as well as more rigorous immigration policies in Western countries, and there had been virtually no illegal immigrants in Romania prior to 1989, approximately 48,000 people had entered the country between 1991 and 1992 with temporary visas and had not left after their visas had run out. Applications for asylum had also risen significantly. Whereas most asylum-seekers had been Albanians and Somalis in 1992, in 1993 many had come from Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. However, most illegal immigrants in Romania were not seeking asylum, they were merely using Romania as a transit country.

33. The Romanian authorities had given priority to establishing an appropriate legal and institutional framework in order to cope with the influx of refugees and migrants. In 1991 Romania had become a party to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol on Refugees. New legislation on the status of refugees in Romania was currently before Parliament; pending its passage the Government had issued relevant temporary legislation. An inter-ministerial body had also been set up to ensure implementation of relevant government decisions and coordination of bilateral and multilateral programmes. UNHCR and IOM had also established liaison offices in Bucharest and had already provided humanitarian and financial assistance.

34. Moreover, a number of bilateral agreements had been signed in recent years for the repatriation of illegal Romanian immigrants in other countries. Some of them included provisions relating to the return of third country nationals who had used Romania as a transit country. At the same time, special programmes for

the social, economic and professional reintegration of returnees had been developed, occasionally with foreign assistance. The efforts to accredit Romania as a "safe country of origin" and "safe third country" should liberalize visa requirements for Romanian citizens and, in a broader sense, facilitate the establishment of a legal framework for the freer flow of persons between Romania and other countries.

35. Addressing the refugee problem on a global level was an extremely complex task and must encompass all political, economic and social aspects. Furthermore, there must be a balanced approach between short- and long-term objectives and efforts must be accelerated to protect existing refugees and displaced persons and to seek durable solutions.

36. As highlighted at the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development, the root causes of the refugee phenomenon must be dealt with, and its close links with the issues of security, democracy, human rights and economic and social development must be recognized. Governments should be aware of that interrelationship and should promote peace and reconciliation as well as respect for the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of all States.

37. At the international level increased emphasis should be laid, inter alia, on creating an appropriate security framework, preventive diplomacy and the promotion of free trade and foreign investment. While he appreciated UNHCR efforts to increase cooperation with United Nations human rights bodies, he stressed the need for a permanent dialogue between the Office and other international organizations concerned. Furthermore, greater attention should be paid to the protection of and assistance to existing refugees and displaced persons through universal accession and full implementation of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol as well as the creation of appropriate institutional mechanisms at the national level.

38. The efforts by migrants to find loopholes in the relevant international instruments and domestic legislation pointed to the need for a clearer differentiation between genuine refugees and other categories of migrants or asylum seekers. The organizations concerned should cooperate with UNHCR in its endeavours to lighten the burden borne by countries that had given shelter to large numbers of refugees; moreover, specific refugee-related measures at regional and subregional levels should take into account the difficulties experienced by countries with economies in transition and provide appropriate assistance. Positive action to cope with the refugee problem should include voluntary repatriation, integration in a country of asylum or resettlement in a third country.

39. His delegation welcomed UNHCR efforts on behalf of voluntary repatriation, where possible, and agreed on the need for financial and logistic assistance by the parties concerned and the international community. Special attention should also be paid to transit countries and greater communication and cooperation among the countries concerned was required to find appropriate solutions. In conclusion, he emphasized his country's commitment to international efforts for

lasting solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons as well as its support for the enhanced role of UNHCR and increased international cooperation.

40. Mr. APPAVE (Australia), noting UNHCR's recent outlays resulting from the increasing number and complexity of emergencies involving coerced population movements, commended UNHCR's adherence to the strategy of prevention and emergency preparedness in dealing with specific displacement problems. He expressed appreciation for the Office's effectiveness in recent interventions.

41. In considering contemporary protection needs, a distinction needed to be made between refugees as defined in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, for whom there was a well-established response mechanism, and persons who were not refugees by that definition. Their needs were qualitatively different and it would not be helpful to those who were subject to persecution to be placed in a wider category including those who were subject to a more generalized threat to physical safety. His delegation would not therefore wish to broaden the definition of refugee in order to deal with both groups under the 1951 Convention. Rather, establishing guidelines based on the common experience of UNHCR and member countries during recent humanitarian interventions would be a first step in ensuring consistency and equity of service and would provide UNHCR with a sense of how much was expected of it and at what point it should intervene.

42. Programme management and administration would become ever more important and his delegation recommended that UNHCR should explore new approaches. He welcomed the appointment of the Director of Inspection and Evaluation Services, who would be able to assist the international community in evaluating humanitarian interventions and discovering what approaches and techniques worked both in terms of international coordination and in the field.

43. His delegation urged UNHCR, following its conclusion of formal Memoranda of Understanding with WFP and UNDP, to continue to explore new avenues for cooperation with other agencies whose mandates coincided with UNHCR's protection mandate. It was particularly urgent to coordinate action on the so-called homeless issues, such as protection for the internally displaced and demining programmes.

44. It was most practical and appropriate that UNHCR should be the lead agency in certain humanitarian crises which might involve the Convention on refugees. But that role should be governed by the availability of resources and operational capacity and should not be undertaken at the expense of UNHCR's core protection role. He recommended that UNHCR should further develop its cooperation with DHA and build more effective relations with its NGO partners. Priority should be given to the implementation of the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action, and he supported the PARINAC (Partnership in Action Process) recommendation for a world refugee day. Lastly, he paid tribute to the work of the High Commissioner and her staff in performing difficult and often dangerous tasks.

45. Mr. SLABY (Czech Republic), expressing gratitude for the dedication and courage of the UNHCR staff, hoped that a draft convention on the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel would soon be concluded.

46. The refugee problem should be examined in the broad context of human rights protection, since human rights violations were a major cause of the refugee problem. His delegation supported UNHCR's emphasis on preventive strategy and called upon the international community to monitor more actively those situations which might result in forced massive migration, and to use diplomatic channels or the threat of sanctions to help prevent such migration.

47. He called on States parties to the 1951 Convention to meet their obligations, in particular the principle of non-refoulement, violations of which brought into question the whole institution of asylum and constituted an infringement of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

48. Despite recent successes, UNHCR could not relax its efforts to prevent, prepare for and seek solutions to problems of enforced displacement. In that connection, his delegation appreciated the work of all United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations involved in the former Yugoslavia. The Czech Republic had also been closely involved in relief work for Bosnia and Herzegovina from the start of the conflict, donating troops to UNPROFOR, direct aid to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and, under UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration's special medical programme, medical care.

49. Temporary asylum seekers in the Czech Republic had the same status for the most part as Czech citizens. The Czech Republic was to convert to a final destination country where any person subject to persecution in his or her country would be able to seek asylum. Procedures had been modified to provide better service to genuine refugees as opposed to persons leaving their countries for other reasons. In view of the xenophobia and racism often provoked among the population of host countries by the abuse of asylum procedures and an influx of mainly economic migrants, he welcomed the activities aimed at combating racism and in particular the proclamation of the United Nations Year for Tolerance in 1995.

50. Lastly, deploring the tragic events in Rwanda, he said that the Czech Republic had participated fully in assisting that country, both in Security Council discussion and by sending humanitarian aid.

51. Mr. RATA (New Zealand) said that among the new demands placed on UNHCR during the previous year, the sheer scale of the Rwanda humanitarian emergency was unprecedented. Yet UNHCR's efficient response had allowed donor countries to feel confident in contributing significant amounts of financial and material aid.

52. The increasing complexity of operations showed that improved coordination not only of agencies involved in emergency operations, but also of political, financial, public relations and security concerns, would be necessary both to

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avoid overburdening UNHCR and to allow the United Nations to speak publicly with one voice. Given the diversity of emergency situations leading to refugee movements recently, not only in Africa but in Europe and Central Asia, his delegation supported the proposal for a conference on refugee and migration matters.

53. New situations had led to the extension of UNHCR's protection mandate. His delegation welcomed the guidelines developed in relation to the former Yugoslavia on temporary protection for new and highly vulnerable groups of refugees such as the victims of the unacceptable practices of forced displacement or ethnic cleansing. While the country concerned should bear primary responsibility for the safety of internally displaced persons UNHCR, together with other humanitarian agencies, could play a valuable role in assisting them. There were also groups fleeing from armed conflict who were not covered by the 1951 Convention regarding the Status of Refugees, yet who required protection and assistance. His delegation welcomed UNHCR's work on guidelines for such groups.

54. As a resettlement country, New Zealand had been closely involved with UNHCR in the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese refugees. He looked forward to the successful conclusion of that programme at the end of 1995, and hoped an acceptable solution could be found to the problem of screened-out groups. In the broader resettlement field, his Government remained committed to offering annual resettlement places, particularly for groups such as women at risk and medical and emergency cases.

55. New Zealand extended its sympathies to the family of the UNHCR staff member who had been killed in Burundi earlier in the current year. In order to reach vulnerable groups, United Nations agencies, peace-keepers and other humanitarian organizations frequently had to operate on the front line. He looked forward to the adoption during the current session of the General Assembly of a convention which would be a major milestone in the protection of peace-keepers and humanitarian personnel, including contract and non-governmental personnel acting in support of United Nations operations. Such protection was particularly important for agencies such as UNHCR which often acted in close connection with peace-keeping operations. The convention would also provide for the possible extension of its provisions to other United Nations and agency personnel working in areas of exceptional risk, thus enabling protection to be provided to personnel who were not working in the area of a peace-keeping operation, and were unable to obtain protection from the host Government.

56. The UNHCR Executive Committee had stressed the importance of addressing root causes of human rights violations and refugee flows, and examining preventive measures; the absence of early preventive action gave rise to situations such as the Rwandan crisis, where situations deteriorated and lives were placed at risk.

57. Mrs. BRENNEN-HAYLOCK (Bahamas) said that international migration had long been a dominant phenomenon in the world, and had become more pronounced in the post-cold-war era, leading to increased efforts by the international community

to address the challenge. Of significant note, in that regard, were the agreements reached at the recent International Conference on Population and Development, which placed migration issues within their proper context in relation to development, and provided a sound basis for action.

58. There had also been laudable efforts to improve the emergency preparedness and response capacity of UNHCR. The international community was continuing the search for preventive measures aimed at eliminating conditions and circumstances which led to refugee flows by strengthening human rights and humanitarian laws. UNHCR had also successfully continued to carry out one of its major policies, namely, promoting the voluntary repatriation of refugees.

59. As a result of the need to distinguish between refugees and economic migrants, there were large numbers of persons in need of international protection who were not considered to be refugees within the terms of international agreements. There were situations where temporary protection had to be given to those who might not qualify as refugees. Her country had for more than 30 years been experiencing a steady flow of undocumented migrants, largely because of political upheavals and economic deprivation within the region, as well as the geographically convenient location of the country which led migrants to use the Bahamas as a transit point en route to other States. In discharging its humanitarian duty to protect and assist those migrants, her country had seen its financial, social and welfare resources stretched beyond capacity. It had provided refuge in spite of the absence of either recognition or assistance from the international community. Some 40,000 Haitian migrants were estimated to be living in the Bahamas with no recognized immigration status. In comparison with the total population of some 250,000, that problem had had a significant impact on the country's socio-economic stability. Her Government had recently promulgated new legislation to facilitate the attainment of permanent residence status by migrants who had lived in the Bahamas for more than 10 years; however, faced with severely overstretched resources, her country no longer had the capacity to absorb additional migrants, even on a temporary basis. She trusted that with the return to Haiti of that State's democratically elected President, the large migratory movements of its citizens would end. The international community should pledge itself to assist Haiti on the road to a secure and stable future.

60. Long-term objectives, however laudable, did not address the immediate concerns of the Bahamas. She therefore called for the support of the international community to respond to the challenges faced by small countries such as her own, and hoped that, after the recent International Conference on Population and Development, the special needs and circumstances of developing countries would be borne in mind as they sought to grapple with large influxes of undocumented migrants. An attendant problem that could not be ignored was that of unscrupulous persons who sought to capitalize on the misfortune of migrants. Her country's meagre resources did not enable it to keep up with the activities of those unprincipled individuals.

61. The time was long overdue for the international community to focus specifically on the question of migrants. Whether the approach was to be

regional or global, it was necessary to undertake a comprehensive study and seize the opportunity to deal with a problem which was constantly increasing in complexity. Within the overall development concerns of countries, migration could no longer be treated as a peripheral issue. The search for durable solutions should take account of the need for greater responsiveness of the United Nations family of agencies in helping to resolve root causes, greater emphasis on intra-hemispheric collaboration, and international assistance for temporary accommodation and repatriation of economic as well as political refugees.

62. Her delegation wished to pay a tribute to the staff of UNHCR for their courage and determination under dangerous and volatile conditions. Attacks against them in the exercise of their humanitarian duties were unjustifiable. Greater efforts to guarantee their safety should be made by all parties concerned.

63. Mr. SCHATZER (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that, in a context where it was increasingly difficult to draw a clear line between refugee flows and other forms of displacement of persons requiring attention by the international community, his organization's broad migration mandate usefully complemented the responsibilities of UNHCR. Migration flows were generated by varying combinations of economic distress, ethnic violence, environmental degradation, political instability and armed conflict. A comprehensive approach to those root causes was leading to growing cooperation between IOM and UNHCR in the following areas: the world-wide incidence of irregular migration, often requiring joint and comprehensive analysis; the return of unsuccessful asylum-seekers and the repatriation of UNHCR-mandated refugees; capacity-building in the field of migration management, as well as in flow response on behalf of Governments struggling with new and sudden migration and refugee problems; orderly emigration and departure arrangements for needy nationals and for resettlement of refugees from countries of first asylum; and preventive information dissemination activities.

64. Africa was of particular concern to IOM. The uncertain situation in Rwanda and the neighbouring countries continued to frustrate initiatives for the large-scale return of refugees and internally displaced persons. Despite considerable difficulties, IOM had so far been able to assist more than 125,000 persons who had spontaneously decided to return to their home areas.

65. Victims of internal displacement were of growing concern to IOM in other parts of the world. One example was Mozambique, where programmes for reintegration of demobilized soldiers and their families and assistance to vulnerable internally displaced persons were IOM's responsibility. IOM had also used its resources to enable election observers to fulfil their task.

66. In the former Yugoslavia, IOM was having to prepare for another winter of warfare and humanitarian emergencies, and displacement of populations was continuing. Damage to health structures in the area was such that the IOM/UNHCR programme for medical evacuations was having to continue providing relief for patients in need of urgent care. Efforts for third-country resettlement, family

reunion activities for former detainees, and assistance to individuals wishing to return to their homes were continuing.

67. Afghanistan was another continuing refugee crisis area. The suffering of the population continued, although certain areas of the country seemed safe to some returning refugees. On the other hand, South-East Asia was an example of how a refugee situation could, over time, develop into an orderly migration process which continued to require international support, albeit of a different nature.

68. IOM had stressed the importance of an in-depth discussion of all matters related to migration, including its development aspects. The recent International Conference on Population and Development had produced an impressive consensus on migration matters, but the lack of a universally accepted policy document was testimony to the need for further deliberations. A number of regional initiatives were also needed; one example was the problem of refugees and forced displacement in the former Soviet Union. IOM was planning, for December 1994, a workshop on citizenship and related matters with the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States.

69. In its daily work, IOM relied heavily on the good offices and cooperation of other actors such as non-governmental organizations. Their partnership enabled IOM better to carry out its work, centred on the concern for individuals caught up in situations threatening their human rights, their sustainability, and often their lives.

70. The final document of the Cairo Conference had recognized that no person should be forced into leaving his home. Reality, however, still forced millions to flee violence or seek better conditions in other countries. Since the problems of migrants and refugees were closely linked, UNHCR and IOM often worked in complementary, cooperative ways. The problems facing the international community were such that such cooperative and innovative approaches needed to be continued, expanded, and further perfected.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.